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A child's Holocaust
The Magazine



The Rolling Stones speak out
Time Out

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Traders in Chicago make their gloom apparent, as the Dow Jones took a dive yesterday. (AP)

Markets dive after Hong Kong crash

NEW YORK (AP) – The Dow Jones industrials tumbled almost 200 points yesterday in a global stock slide triggered by a market panic in Hong Kong and deteriorating economic conditions throughout Southeast Asia.

On Wall Street, the Dow Jones industrial average fell about 186.88 points to 7,847.77 after twice falling to a deficit of nearly 230 points during the afternoon.

Broader stock measures also sank by about 2 percent, while declining issues outnumbered advancers by a 4-to-1 margin on the New York Stock Exchange.

The ripples from the financial avalanche in Hong Kong took a heavier toll on other overseas markets. The Nikkei stock average fell 3.0 percent in Japan, which exports heavily to Southeast Asia. In Europe, Frankfurt's DAX index fell 4.7 percent and London's FT-SE 100 fell 3.1 percent.

But US Treasury bonds shot higher, sending interest rates sharply lower and cushioning US equity markets, as investors at home and abroad sought out the perceived safety of fixed-income securities and a stable American economy.

The worldwide downturn was triggered by a shocking 10 percent tumble in the Hang Seng index of Hong Kong that deepened fears about weakening profits for companies that depend on Asian markets for a portion of their profits.

"These fears [about profits] are fairly genuine," said Richard Cripps, chief market strategist for Legg Mason of Baltimore, noting that multinationals such as Coca-Cola and Gillette have already seen their profits hurt by the turmoil that took hold in Asian markets during the summer. "The ability of companies [in Asia] or consumers there to consume your products is less.

Cripps also cautioned, however, that "perception is usually worse than reality." Even among US companies with exposure to Asian markets, he said, "the impact is slight. It may impact up to 5 percent of sales, and a small amount of profits." Yesterday's downturn was the latest setback in the US stock market's struggle to fully recover from a steep slide in August.

The day's losses were broad-based. Among the Dow 30, DuPont was the only issue to rise, and IBM, Alcoa and United Technologies were the only components to fall more than 3 points.

NYSE volume totaled 669.29 million shares as of 4 p.m., the third largest tally ever.

The Standard and Poor's 500-stock list fell 17.80 to 950.69, the NYSE composite index fell 9.31 to 499.49, and the Nasdaq composite index fell 36.83 to 1,671.25.

Even smaller companies were not spared from the carnage. The Russell 2000 index of smaller companies fell 8.89 to 449.36, and the small-company dominated American Stock Exchange composite index fell 10.35 to 703.39.

Market report, Page 15

Mashaal warns of more Hamas attacks 'soon'

By JAY BUSHINSKY, STEVE RODAN, and MOHAMMED NAJIB

Hamas will continue its terror campaign "in the coming days," the organization's Khaled Mashaal warned in an interview published Wednesday.

"Our path is clear: armed struggle until the occupiers have been banished," Mashaal told the Jordanian weekly *Star*. "Nobody in the world can change Hamas's strategy, and in the next few days it will become evident that Hamas has not strayed from this path."

Another call to "wage war" on Israel, this one made by Hamas founder Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, will be weighed at Sunday's cabinet meeting, a senior official predicted yesterday. He charged the "war call" was made "with the tacit approval of the Palestinian Authority."

Yassin's statements, along with those of Abdul Aziz Rantisi, a Hamas leader who called for more suicide bomb attacks in Israeli cities, drew harsh reactions from the government.

In an address to 3,500 people at the Islamic University in Gaza on Wednesday, Yassin said, "We have one enemy and we will wage war and fight him until we return to our land and our rights. No to a cease-fire, and we will not concede one inch of our land, however high the price... A nation without jihad cannot exist. Through our knowledge, faith, and the jihad we will win."

Rantisi was more explicit. He called for more suicide bomb attacks in Israeli cities.

"I say today to Jaffa, Haifa, Safed, and Tel Aviv to be ready to meet the *mujahedeen*," Rantisi said, using the Arabic word for holy warriors, a term Hamas uses to describe its suicide bombers.

Ahmed Nasser, a member of the Fatah Supreme Committee, said the Oslo Accords between Israel and the PLO are not the answer for Palestinians. But the accords do not prevent what he called Palestinian ambitions and sacrifices.

"Failure of the accord does not stop us from realizing our legitimate rights to return to the struggle and to our rights, and to the return of the diplomatic process to its natural route in accordance to what is written in the agreements," he said.

'PA poisoning atmosphere', Page 2

The Islamic Jihad is scheduled to organize a rally today in Rafah to mark the second anniversary of the assassination of its leader, Fathi Shkaki. Jihad activists said the organization's new leader, Ramadan Shalah, will address the rally by telephone from Damascus.

In a gesture that signals a reversal of PA Chairman Yasser Arafat's crackdown last month on the Islamic movement, the PA has given permission to Hamas's weekly newspaper, *Al Risalah*, to reopen. This followed negotiations between Hamas-aligned Salvation Party member Ahmed Saatti and PA secretary-general Tayeb Abdul-Rahim, Arafat's liaison with the organization. Abdul-Rahim has also begun to discuss the reopening of some of the 16 Hamas institutions closed by the PA in September.

Al Risalah editor Ghazi Hamad said the newspaper would resume publishing in early November. *Al Risalah*, with an estimated circulation of less than 10,000, is the only local Palestinian publication that consistently features articles critical of the PA and its policies.

Several PA ministers had called for the reopening of Hamas institutions, saying that Israel's release of Yassin had defused the crackdown on Hamas.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's communications adviser, David Bar-Illan, said the most shocking aspect of the Yassin speech is that it took place with the tacit approval of the PA.

"It is the PA's consistent and unchanged abetment of such incitement that makes it so worrisome," Bar-Illan said yesterday.

Yassin's statement, coupled with his deputy's warning that Palestinian suicide bombers are about to strike four Israeli cities, evoked a bitter reaction yesterday from the Foreign Ministry.

"Whoever incites to terrorism and violence cannot take part in the peace process and harms first and foremost the Palestinian people," said spokesman Aviv Shir-On.

He expressed the ministry's "shock and disgust" at the call for jihad against Israel and the dispatch of more suicide bombers against children, women, and elderly persons. This "clearly shows that Hamas and its leaders are not seeking peace and coexistence," he said.

Shir-On said Israel will continue to fight terrorism and those who incite it and demands that the international community condemn this incitement and act against it.

Itim contributed to this report.

Lau advises Netanyahu to apologize for Left remarks

By MICHAL YUDELMAN

Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Israel Lau yesterday advised Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu to apologize for his statement that the left wing had forgotten its *Judaism, and said the ensuing* uproar is reminiscent of the last days of Pompeii.

Lau urged Netanyahu to ask all his ministers and the heads of the Knesset factions to enhance unity and refrain from harmful polarization.

"I trust Netanyahu to find the way to say he did not mean to hurt anyone, and that if he did, he is sorry for it. If I do something wrong, I do not hesitate to apologize and say I made a mistake. I didn't hear personally from Netanyahu what he meant, but the way things were perceived, many will feel hurt, and he must say he didn't mean it," Lau said.

Netanyahu responded to Lau's call last night in a statement, saying that he sees importance in fostering reconciliation and unity within Israel, but he also called on the Left to stop seeking confrontation and quarrels.

MK Rafi Elul (Labor) met venerable mystic Rabbi Yitzhak Kadouri on Wednesday and asked him to clarify his position on the Left and religion, in view of Netanyahu's statement to him the previous night that "the Left has forgotten what it means to be Jewish." The two set another meeting for this morning, when Kadouri assured Elul he would issue a statement.

Netanyahu said on Wednesday that his statement had been taken out of context and he attacked the opposition leaders for distorting his words and inciting against him and the government.

The controversial statement was made by Netanyahu while he was unaware he was being recorded by Israel Radio.

"It's complete nonsense to say I have doubts about the Judaism or the legitimacy of the Judaism of any left-wing people," Netanyahu said in interviews the next morning, following the public uproar.

Netanyahu said he had no intention of hurting anyone and no one had any cause to be hurt. He said it was "completely clear" that what he said was "something else completely: not about Judaism as a religion, nor about Judaism as a nationality, but only about the principle guiding us these past 100 years in Israel, and there are people in the Left who have forgotten it." He added that the principle he was referring to was that the responsibility for Israel's security must not be handed over to strangers.

Netanyahu blasted all those who attacked him and said they were dividing the nation. "They call their incitement criticism, but when they are criticized, they hasten to incite regardless of the facts and reality."

See LAU, Page 2

North American Newsstand Prices for J.P. Friday Edition
NY, NJ: $3.00
Canada: CDN $5.00 + TAX
Elsewhere: $4.00

UK publication names Mossad No. 2

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN and DOUGLAS DAVIS

The Mossad's deputy chief and director of operations, who has been referred to in Israel as "H," was identified yesterday by the London-based newsletter *Foreign Report*, which has also posted his name on the Internet (http://www.foreignreport.com). The newsletter says "H" risks being replaced because of his involvement in the failed assassination of Hamas leader Khaled Mashaal in Amman last month.

According to *Foreign Report*, senior Mossad officers have not been planning new murders and espionage. Instead, they have been working on the testimony they have been giving to the Clarification Committee investigating the Mashaal fiasco, the report said.

Citing "sources familiar with the Mossad," the reputable newsletter said that in the 1960s the Mossad, one of the world's best-known secret services, had only 600 employees and its output was double today's.

"Experts say that the best way to start its recovery is to cut the number of employees by half and the budget by a third," said the newsletter, a publication of Jane's Information Group.

Echoing reports in Israel, *Foreign Report* said that OC Northern Command Maj.-Gen. Amiram Levine is being tipped to replace Danny Yatom at the helm of the Mossad. Yatom is expected to be forced out following the inquiry by the Clarification Committee, and *Foreign Report* said "H" is also likely to lose his job, since he had some responsibility for what happened.

The newsletter also quoted Mossad sources as saying it was possible that former Mossad head Shabtai Shavit, who served from 1988 to 1996, would return to the post for an interim period.

See MOSSAD, Page 2

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Report: Christians persecuted by PA

By STEVE RODAN

The dwindling Christian minority in the Palestinian Authority areas is being persecuted, an Israeli government report says. Cemeteries are being vandalized, churches are being burglarized and Islamic militants fearlessly harass Christian youngsters, according to the report.

At the same time, the report says, the PA has taken control of the churches and is pressuring their leaders to serve as mouthpieces for Yasser Arafat and opponents of Israel.

"On the social and religious level, the few Christians remaining in PA-controlled areas are subjected to brutal and relentless persecution," the report says.

"Christian cemeteries have been destroyed, monasteries have had their telephone lines cut, and there have been break-ins to convents."

Virtually none of these incidents are reported to authorities because of fear of retaliation, the report says.

The report reviews the August clash between Christians and police in Beit Sahur, prompted by an attack by Islamic militants on Christian youngsters. Six people were injured in the clash and none of the police officers was disciplined.

"Rather than investigating the incident and punishing those responsible," the report says, "the PA is attempting to cover it up and has threatened anyone who dares to publicize the story."

The report also details the harassment of Christian pastors and Moslem converts to Christianity.

In late June, one convert in the northern West Bank was arrested by PA Preventive Security Service agents and has been tortured since then in a PA prison.

Another Palestinian convert to Christianity living near Nablus was arrested by PA police and urged by a Moslem preacher to renounce his new faith, the report says. When the convert refused, he was charged and sentenced by a PA court for what it called the crime of insulting a religious leader.

He is now being detained in a Nablus prison cell with more than 30 inmates, most of whom are serving life sentences for murder.

Yet another Christian convert in Ramallah was warned by PA police to stop proselytizing or he would be arrested and charged with spying, the report says.

The report cites the case of an unnamed Ramallah pastor who was warned recently by PA security agents that they were monitoring his evangelical activities and planned to call him in for questioning.

Some of the details in the report, particularly those concerning PA harassment of Christian converts, was confirmed by church sources.

PA officials, however, said many of the incidents mentioned in the Israeli report were either baseless or exaggerated.

The officials said that in places like Jericho, Western-based Christian activists operate freely despite the opposition of Hamas militants. In Jericho, for example, a Christian pastor organized a parade in June in which about 100 people sang songs in praise of Jesus as they marched down the main street of this predominantly Moslem town.

Ibrahim Kandelaft, responsible for Christian affairs in the PA, said he recalls some reports of vandalism of Christian cemeteries.

"These are very minor accidents," he said.

"Perhaps they are done by children. They don't mean any harm."

He added, "We Christians have a fanatic minority. If they see a Moslem pass through a cemetery, they say he is bent on desecration."

Kandelaft said he was informed by a foreign journalist of the arrest of a Christian convert but has not come across any such cases himself.

He said many Christians, both men and women, marry Moslems without incident.

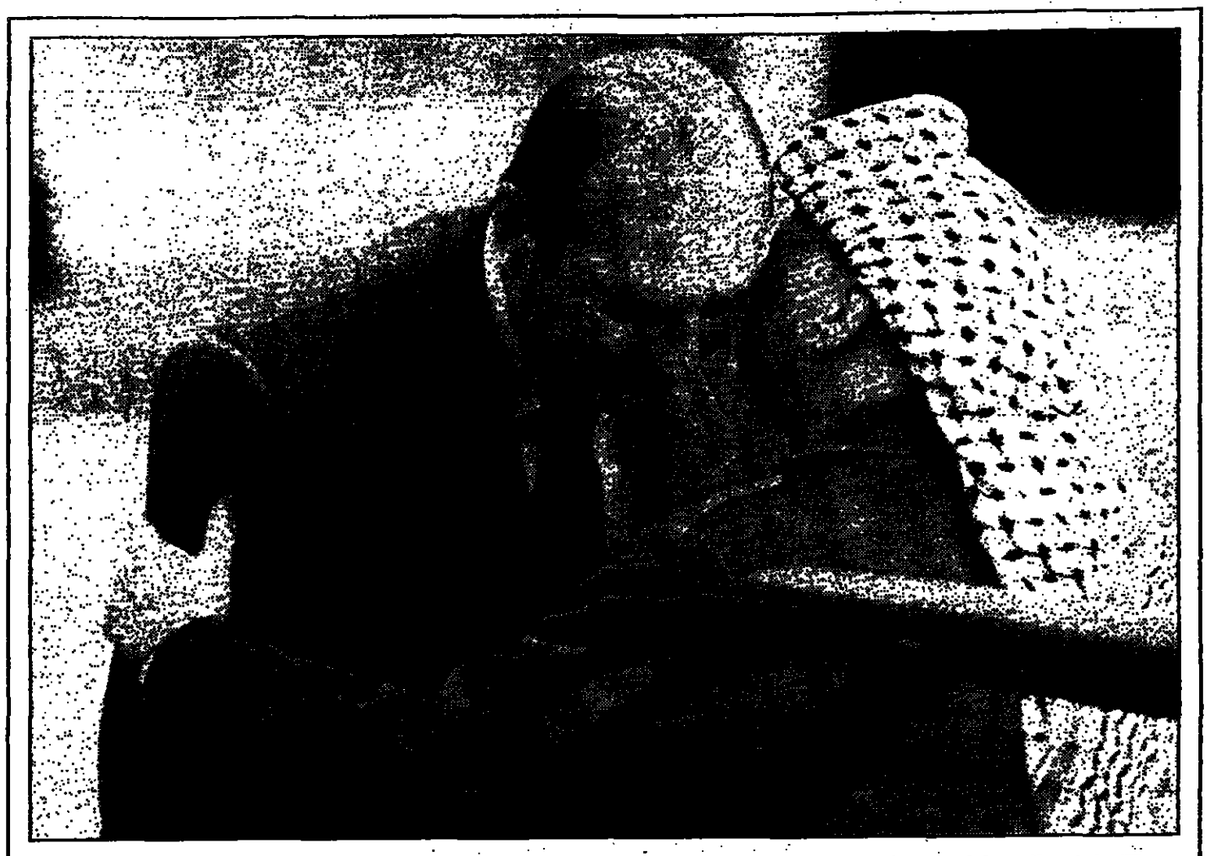
"The PA doesn't interfere in this," he said.

The report says Christians are rapidly emigrating from PA areas. It says Bethlehem, which in 1948 was 80 percent Christian, is today 80 percent Moslem. The PA plans to hold a census in Jerusalem, where many Christians still reside.

"Today, there are very few Christians remaining in the Palestinian-controlled parts of the West Bank," the report said.

"Those who can, emigrate. There will soon be no Christians remaining in PA-controlled areas," the report says.

"The PA is trying to hide the fact that there is a massive wave of Christian emigration from the areas under its control."



Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat kisses French President Jacques Chirac upon his arrival for talks at the Elysee Palace yesterday. (Reuters)

Israel criticizes PA for saying peace process still frozen

By STEVE RODAN, JAY BUSHINSKY, and news agencies

Senior officials accused the Palestinian Authority yesterday of "poisoning the diplomatic atmosphere" by contending that the peace process is still frozen despite US peace envoy Dennis Ross's claim that important progress had been made in the latest rounds of talks.

They deplored such statements as the one made by the PA's information minister. Yasser Abed-Rabbo, that "no progress has been achieved." The PA said yesterday Ross had failed in his attempt to achieve agreement between Israelis and Palestinians on the implementation of the interim accords and warned of renewed violence in the area.

Abed-Rabbo said Ross's visit was an exercise in public relations aimed at ensuring Arab attendance at the Middle East economic conference in Qatar next month.

PA Local Government Minister Saeb Erekat agreed that Ross did not change Israel's position. He said he hoped the US would find a way to force Israel to change its negotiating stance during the high-level talks in Washington next week.

The officials "deplored" similar comments by the PA's various spokesmen and contended that since the renewal of contacts in New York with the assistance of the US last month there had been a number of meetings at the senior level as well as working sessions. These took place in a positive atmosphere and progress was made on many issues, they said.

They noted that the Israeli negotiating teams had been instructed to try to make headway.

In contrast, they said the "repeated statements" by PA aides to the contrary was "surprising, especially in view of the fact that Ross and his staff believe that the talks indeed did advance and that important achievements were made."

The dissatisfaction expressed by PA officials came as senior officials left the region for meetings in Europe and the US. PA Chairman Yasser Arafat began his tour of Europe and met French President Jacques Chirac.

Aides of Chirac said Arafat had made "a very pessimistic analysis" of the situation, which the French president deemed "completely blocked."

Arafat later extended Jewish New Year's wishes in Hebrew to the Israeli people. "I want to say *Shana Tova* [Happy New Year] and best wishes from the Palestinian people to the Jewish people, to our Israeli partners," he said at the start of an address to the General Conference of the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization.

After an emotional tribute to assassinated Israeli leader Yitzhak Rabin, Arafat said that since Netanyahu took power last year "the great hopes born of the peace process began to fade."

Arafat said he condemned Hamas suicide attacks and made every effort to thwart such actions, "but it is not possible to eradicate acts of violence and terrorism unless we pull out their roots and eradicate their causes."

PA Preventive Security Service chief Jibril Rajoub flew to Washington for meetings with US defense and foreign affairs officials. Palestinian officials said the Rajoub meetings are meant to persuade the Clinton administration and Congress that the PA is serious about fighting terrorism.

Ahmed Abdul-Rahman, secretary of the PA cabinet, said the Washington negotiations will focus on four issues: the implementation of the first and second further redeployment in the West Bank; the halt in construction of settlements; mutual security for Israelis and Palestinians; and final status negotiations.

Abdul-Rahman said that without progress on the issues of redeployment and a halt in settlement there is no reason to continue negotiations. He said the Palestinian aim in the talks is to "liberate Palestinian land by the withdrawal of Israeli forces, and not running in an empty circle always talking about terrorism and security."

7 Palestinian quarry owners held in explosives scam

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Police, IDF troops, and security forces arrested seven Palestinian quarry owners from the Hebron area on Tuesday night and Wednesday morning.

Their arrests are connected with the ongoing police investigation of large amounts of explosives that have disappeared from building sites in the West Bank.

Jerusalem police spokesman Shmuel Ben-Ruby said last night the seven are suspected of blasting without permits at different quarries using explosives that were illegally sold or held by Israeli contractors arrested last week. He added that more arrests are likely and hundreds of kilos of explosives are still unaccounted for.

Ben-Ruby stressed that police and security forces fear that some of the missing explosives have already reached the hands of terrorist organizations.

Last week police arrested 10 Israeli contractors suspected of illegally possessing and selling explosives. In the backyard of one contractor's home police found 170 kg. of explosives, scores of detonators, and fuse cord. Their arrests came shortly after the arrests of two Palestinians near Ma'aleh Adumim carrying 50 kg. of explosives in their car. The two led police to a building in the village of Bani Naim near Hebron, where they had hidden an additional 30 kg. of explosives.

MOSSAD

Continued from Page 1

Levine is considered the prime contender to take over the Mossad, the newsletter reported, because he is close to retirement and close to Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu. He was, according to *Foreign Report*, head of the General Staff Reconnaissance Unit (Sayeret Matkal) when Netanyahu was a private, and he was instrumental in persuading Netanyahu to extend his army service and become an officer.

The newsletter also described a recent purported exchange between Levine and Sheikh Nabil Kaouk, head of Hizbullah in south Lebanon. It quotes Kaouk as saying he had heard privately that Levine was to retire shortly and that the Israeli general was anxious to ensure his assignment would end honorably and happily.

"I sent him a message via the UN force that he would leave defeated and humiliated," Kaouk is quoted as saying.

LAU

Continued from Page 1

Netanyahu said that in speaking about the biblical spies he meant to say that many on the Left have forgotten the key to the Jewish nation's existence in Israel, which is that the Jews should be defended by Jews.

Opposition leader Ehud Barak said the prime minister's explanation the next day – that his words had been taken out of context – was an insult to the public's intelligence and an embarrassment to his own voters. "Judaism is not a gimmick. Netanyahu is not the one to teach me Judaism. Israel deserves a more serious, mature, and much more responsible prime minister," Barak said.

Dozens of Likud activists demonstrated Wednesday outside Netanyahu's home with posters saying, "I'm proud of Bibi" and "the Left is inciting to war."

MK Michael Eitan (Likud) said he agreed with Netanyahu's statement about the Left wing's Judaism, citing Barak who was quoted in an interview earlier as saying that Labor must distinguish itself from Meretz "because we need Jewish roots." Eitan said this shows Netanyahu was right and the Left has forgotten its Judaism.

Meretz Knesset faction head MK Haim Oron said his faction will turn the prime minister's opening statement in the Knesset next Monday into a no-confidence vote.

ARRIVALS

Willie Trump from Williams Island, Florida, for acceptance of "The Chesed Award for Outstanding Commitment to Children with Developmental Disabilities in Israel" by Minister of Health, Mr. Yehoshua Matza.

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(Communicated)

"The Old Boys' Club"

Ilana Podolsky will be going to jail on October 26 because she, as a new immigrant from Russia, does not belong to the "Old Boys' Club". Simcha Dinitz does. The former head of the Jewish Agency was convicted by a District Court Judge of the crime of misusing Agency funds for his own personal benefit. He will not be going to jail, nor will there be a criminal record against him. The Supreme Court, itself made up of elite members of the "Old Boys' Club", extricated Simcha and absolved him of all formal guilt. Judge Orr, writing the majority opinion, did say for posterity that he was sure from the record that Dinitz had committed a crime, but the basis for letting him off the hook was that there was not enough evidence to prove "beyond a reasonable doubt" that he had committed the crime for which he was charged. The forceful minority opinion of Judge Dorner was quite clear, however: there was evidence beyond a reasonable doubt, that Simcha Dinitz had committed the crimes for which he had been convicted. How is it possible that Supreme Court justices could differ with regard to the clear cut evidence in the court record? Some other factors must have been at play, in the consideration of the guilt or innocence of Simcha Dinitz! We contend that "The Old Boys' Club" factor played a prominent role in the final decision.

That too is the factor that is sending Ilana Podolsky to jail. The evidence in the Podolsky case was far less convincing than that in the Dinitz case. Ilana, after all, was defending herself, her aged mother, a Holocaust survivor, and the two young relatives in her car, from a lethal attack by an Arab mob, which was throwing stones and Molotov Cocktails at her vehicle. In what was clearly an act of self-defense, she fired a gun into the air. The ricocheting bullet struck one of the Arabs. When he later died, Ilana was charged and tried for murder. On flimsy, hostile and unreliable Arab testimony, she was convicted by the court of manslaughter, and sentenced to three years. Incredibly, according to the Court, ***she used more force in her self-defense than was necessary!*** On appeal, the Supreme Court reduced the jail term to one year, and she is to be imprisoned on October 26, after the Holidays. Had she been a member of "The Old Boys' Club," that group of Labor veterans who appointed the members of the present Supreme Court, she would be free today. Promoting Oslo does not permit criticism of the Arabs; in Labor's view, any condemnation of Arab actions - stoning and firebombing Jews, especially Jews located in Judea, Samaria, or the Gaza Strip, would be harmful to the peace process. So, unlike Dinitz, Ilana, the victim of such an Arab attack, goes to jail. "Justice" becomes a mockery, when your chances of receiving it depend on whether you belong to "The Old Boys' Club" or not.

Phone or Fax President Weizman to pardon Ilana, for her sake, and also for the right of all of us to defend ourselves. Tel. 02-670-7211, Fax. 02-561-0037

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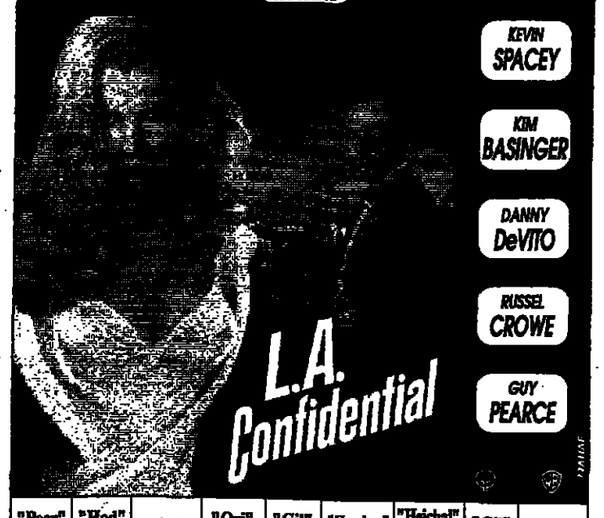
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هكذا من الأصل

Reform, Conservative want sign of Orthodox compromise

By HAIM SHAPIRO

The Reform and Conservative movements have told Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman they want to continue working towards a compromise on their status in Israel, but they insisted that Neeman bring some evidence that Orthodox authorities are willing to compromise, or they will have their day in court.

Rabbi Ehud Bandel, president of the Conservative movement in Israel, and Rabbi Uri Regev, director of the Reform movement's Israel Religious Action Center, met with Neeman on Wednesday, after a long conference call between the three men and movement leaders in the US on Tuesday night.

The Conservative and Reform movements are likely to win favorable rulings by the High Court on the validity of conversions carried out in Israel by non-Orthodox rabbis, and on seating Reform and Conservative representatives in local religious councils. But the court rulings would be nullified by legislation promoted by the government, which is anxious to retain the support of the religious parties.

But the government is anxious to avoid a major rift with American Jewry, which mainly identifies with the Conservative and Reform. It also faces a breakaway vote from Yisrael Ba'aliya, the Third Way and Tsomet, all members of the coalition, who could defeat such legislation.

The committee, headed by Neeman, was appointed by Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu to deal only with conversion, but has taken on an overall solution to the status of non-Orthodox movements in Israel.

In its basic guidelines, the committee is proposing that Reform and Conservative rabbis be allowed to perform marriages, but in the presence of two "witnesses" from the official Orthodox rabbinate, and that prospective converts from all movements attend a central conversion institute and be converted by an Orthodox rabbinical court.

The first related issue scheduled to come before the High Court Wednesday is a petition to seat Reform and Conservative representatives on the religious councils of Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Haifa, and Kiryat Tivon. Neeman has said that he favors abolishing the religious councils.

The ministerial committee on legislation approved the bill which would prevent non-Orthodox individuals from sitting on religious councils. The bill is expected to be approved by the government on Sunday.

"A delay is possible [in the petition], but only after we hear rabbinic dignitaries of stature who are willing to say publicly that they are ready to work to strengthen unity in Israel by working with our movements," Regev said following the meeting with Neeman.

He added that such statements were necessary to counter the public statements which rejected any cooperation with the Conservative and Reform.

According to Bandel, Neeman said he did not believe public statements would contribute a thing, but the two answered that there had to be confidence-building measures and a public indication that some Orthodox leaders are ready to accept the committee's guidelines.

"We have a public too and they are asking us why we sit with them and let them spit on us," Bandel said.

The next meeting of the Neeman Committee is to be on Sunday. The same day an emergency delegation of some 20 leading Reform rabbis from the US is also due here.



Simhat Torah

A celebrant dances with a Torah during Simhat Torah hakafot Wednesday night at Tel Aviv's Beit Daniel Reform Synagogue. Last night second hakafot took place throughout the country. (Ilan Ossendryver/Israel Sun)

Jews omitted from Vatican antisemitism conference

By HAIM SHAPIRO and news agencies

The leader of Italy's Jewish community expressed disappointment yesterday that a Vatican conference on antisemitism's Christian roots will include no Jews.

"We would have hoped that some Jewish scholars might have been invited as observers at the meeting," said Tullia Zevi, saying she had made the suggestion to the organizers.

"We would have made ourselves available for any clarification," she said. "The answer was very polite but firm that this was an internal church" conference.

"Nevertheless we have great confidence in the work of the commission," she said, adding that the door remained open for contacts.

The three-day theological symposium starting October 30, the first of its kind, will be attended by top Vatican cardinals as well as some 60 leading Catholic theologians and representatives from Protestant and Orthodox Christianity.

The Vatican said yesterday it hoped the unprecedented symposium on the roots of antisemitism in Christian teaching would help overcome past divisions and misunderstandings between Catholics and Jews.

According to Rabbi David Rosen, director of the Israel office of the ADL and an expert on Catholic-Jewish relations, the symposium could well pave the way to a general statement by the Vatican, expressing its contrition for the centuries of Church teachings which resulted in persecution of the Jews and culminated in the Holocaust. Such a statement would follow similar expressions of remorse which have been issued by German, Polish, Dutch, French, American and Brazilian bishops.

"We hope that such a document will be produced because we have been expecting such an honest reckoning with the past for some 20 years, since Pope John Paul II promised that this would be forthcoming when he met with Jewish leaders in Miami," Rosen said.

He added that it would also be in keeping with Cardinal Cassidy's declaration in Prague in 1990 that "the fact that antisemitism has found a place in Church teaching and preaching requires an act of *teshuva* on its part."

A Vatican statement said the symposium "in the first place aims to overcome the misunderstanding and divisions of the past, rediscover the character of each faith and look to the future with tranquility and hope."

It said that reviewing the past would help the Roman Catholic Church seek "truth and contribute to a correct orientation of the lives of the [Catholic] faithful."

Morocco: No freeze in ties with Israel

By JAY BUSHINSKY

A senior adviser to Morocco's King Hassan II denied yesterday that relations with Israel are frozen, saying the monarch was "very upset" by a local report to that effect.

Andre Azoulay, with whom the king consults on economic and financial affairs, said the bilateral relationship between Jerusalem and Rabat is "impacted by the evolution and status of the peace process." "I never used the words 'frozen' or 'freeze,' " he said, referring to an article published Wednesday in *Ha'aretz*. His reaction was voiced in conjunction with a TV interview to be broadcast in New York on Sunday on *The Leon Charney Report*.

A Foreign Ministry source said they knew nothing about a freeze of relations and termed reports to the contrary "inaccurate." Morocco's interest section situated in Tel Aviv is open and functioning, he went on.

Peres invited to Doha conference

Former prime minister Shimon Peres said yesterday he has received an invitation for his Peres Peace Center to attend next month's Doha economic conference and he has accepted, though many Arab states are boycotting it to protest the government's policies.

The invitation from Qatari Foreign Minister Hamed Yassim said "We are sure your center will contribute to practical activity and that will bring about a renewal of the peace process. ... for the benefit of all," Itim said.

Former foreign ministry director-general Uri Savir, who directs the center, will also participate in a young leaders conference in Qatar at the same time.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said in remarks published Wednesday he saw no point in attending the economic conference. "We will monitor the situation until the last minute and we will decide three or four days before the conference," Mubarak told the Arabic daily *al-Hayat*. "A miracle might happen, but what is the use of holding a conference if all parties are turning their backs on each other?" he added.

The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) meeting, due to take place in Qatar November 16-18, is the fourth since 1991 and is aimed at integrating Israel in the regional economy.

Washington, a co-sponsor of Middle East peace efforts, has said the meeting is a purely economic affair that should not be linked to politics.

But Egypt and other Arab countries have linked their attendance at the meeting to progress in peace talks with the Palestinians.

Still, Qatar expects between 2,500 and 3,000 politicians, government officials and businessmen to take part in the conference in Doha, its capital. Yemen has decided to attend, Yemen's armed forces official weekly, said yesterday.

Mubarak, who has met Netanyahu several times to try to push Middle East peace-making, told *al-Hayat* he had lost faith in the Israeli leader and that the US had a better chance of galvanizing the talks.

"I met Netanyahu several times after he came to power...and he promised me he would respect the agreements signed.

"Every time he would promise me something and not fulfill it.

How can you trust a person who doesn't even honor agreements he himself has signed?" Mubarak said.

"The situation now is very complicated...The wheel of peace can be put into motion if the United States takes advantage of its relationship with Israel," he added.

(News agencies)

THE STRUGGLE FOR JERUSALEM
PAST AND PRESENT

Ruth Matar interviews

Rechavam Ze'evy - Knesset Member / IDF General (Res.)

Ezra Yakhin - Lehi fighter and author of "Elnakam"

Kore Kristiansen - Past President of the Norwegian Parliament

Wednesday, October 29, at 9 p.m.

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NEWS
in brief

One dead, three wounded in Gaza

Palestinian police yesterday opened fire on stone throwers in Rafah, killing one man and wounding three. The protest was triggered by a feud in which the nephew of the governor was accused of killing the leader of another clan in a money dispute Wednesday.

The funeral procession for the feud victim, Moussa Doher, passed by the home of the governor, Abdallah Abu Samhadaneh. Several members of the Doher family began throwing stones at the house, and two dozen Palestinian policemen opened fire at the mourners, wounding two. Police also fired at an approaching car after it refused to stop, killing the driver, 40-year-old Suleiman Shaher and injuring his cousin. *Reuters*

Missing policeman found alive and well

Border policeman Yossi Sweid, who was the object of an intensive search Wednesday morning after he disappeared the previous night while on the way to his base in Jerusalem, was found that afternoon alive and well in Eilat. Four Border Policemen spotted Sweid in a shopping center, carrying a loaded M16 rifle. When he realized he was being followed, he left the shopping center and started walking toward the beach. The policemen approached him and asked him to identify himself; instead, he fled in the direction of the airport. The policemen radioed for help, and Sweid was arrested a few minutes later at the entrance to the airport. *Itim*

Tanker driver averts flaming disaster

The driver of a tank truck loaded with propane gas flipped the tanker on its side while avoiding a car that ran a red light at Ra'anana junction on Wednesday morning. The truck driver was lightly hurt, but the danger of explosion kept the intersection and the surrounding area cut off for nearly seven hours, creating massive traffic jams, while rescue workers carefully pumped the gas from the stricken vehicle into another tanker. Electricity was cut off from the area for fear power lines might spark an explosion from leaking gas. Police and rescue officials praised the Dor Energy driver's skill in avoiding what would certainly have been a fatal crash and explosion. *Itim*

Israel can buy more US tactical rockets

The US Department of Defense has notified Congress that Israel may buy additional Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) tactical rocket pods for $30 million, *Defense News* reported this week. Israel already has the MLRS, but "will use the MLRS tactical rocket pods to enhance its current area fire system for use against hostile artillery, air defense, and maneuver elements," said the US weekly. The MLRS is a highly accurate, quickly deployed rocket system which is intended to supplement artillery. *Arieh O'Sullivan*

Soldier's family complains to Weizman

During a condolence visit on Wednesday, President Ezer Weizman heard bitter complaints from the family of St.-Sgt. Mahdi Hatib, 22, of Beit Jann, who died on Saturday, two months after being wounded in Southern Lebanon. The family said no government representative had attended the funeral or visited Mahdi after he was brought to Haifa's Rambam Hospital.

The family also complained about the events related to Hatib's injury, starting from his being hit by friendly fire and including the fact that no ambulances were waiting at Rambam's helicopter pad when Hatib was flown in.

Weizman apologized and promised to help resolve a dispute concerning the building of a road connecting Beit Jann and Hurfeish. *Itim*

Arsonists wreck Messianic Jews' hall

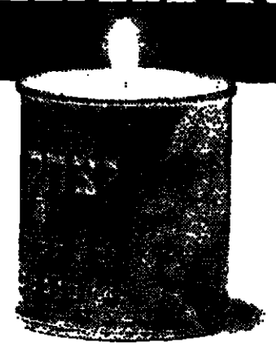
A meeting hall of Messianic Jews, who also use it as a center to provide food and clothing to immigrants from the former Soviet Union, was wrecked by a firebomb earlier this week.

Eitan Shishkoff, leader of the Ohalei Rahamim community in Kiryat Yam, said the attack took place early Tuesday morning when the building, a warehouse in the industrial section of the town, was empty. He quoted police as saying that a chemical agent had been used in the arson attack.

He explained that the Hebrew-speaking congregation of about 100 has been using the facility for two years. He said 65 to 70 percent of the members were Russian immigrants, adding that they were the ones who distributed the aid.

But he said the help given to the immigrants was kept separate from the religious teachings of the members. "We want to give aid because people are in need. There is no question of anyone's faith when we distribute aid," he said. *Haim Shapiro*

LIGHT A CANDLE FOR YITZHAK RABIN



Two years have passed since the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin ז"ל
Remember him by lighting a memorial candle.

The special memorial candle for Yitzhak Rabin will be available at all major retail outlets from October 20 to November 12. For bulk orders, please call 03-638-9383.

Ner Le'Yitzhak

Shalom Chaver Association For The Commemoration Of Yitzhak Rabin

*In order to assure the success of the campaign, the Jerusalem Post, O.K. Advertising, Marketing Chains and Media Networks have volunteered their help and contributed to the campaign.

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Foot-in-mouth disease

In another outbreak of what seems to be a chronic case of foot-in-mouth disease, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu was caught confiding to venerated kabbalist Rabbi Kadourie that "the Left has forgotten what it is to be Jews." Though the remarks were clearly not meant to be made public, it provides evidence that Netanyahu is not above engaging in the same divisive, gutter politics he tried to distance himself from during the last election, and of which he accused a former government.

In a subsequent radio interview, Netanyahu explained that his remarks were "taken completely out of context" and that "it is utter nonsense to claim that I doubt the Jewishness of any left-wingers." The context of Netanyahu's remarks, however, only makes matters worse. His whisperings in the rabbi's ear continued, "They [the Left] think we will put our security in the hands of the Arabs – that Arabs will take care of us. We'll give them part of Israel and they'll take care of us. Who ever heard of such a thing! It's as if the [biblical] spies came and said, 'Not only are they mighty and we're afraid of them, but they're mighty and we'll let them protect us.' *Incredible!*"

So not only did Netanyahu impugn the Jewishness of his opponents, but he compared them unfavorably with the infamous 10 (among 12) spies of the Bible, who reported back to Moses that the Canaanites were so fearsome that the Jews had no chance of taking the land that God had promised to them.

It is the faithlessness of the spies which in Jewish tradition exemplifies the slave mentality of the Jews of the Exodus, and explains why Joshua and Caleb, the two dissenting spies, were the only members of their generation allowed to enter the Land.

A public already cynical about politicians will no doubt believe that a microphone thrust into almost any private political conversation would reveal similar attempts to delegitimize the opposition. Further, the constant drumbeat of public, not private, accusations against Netanyahu from his political opponents that he is about to plunge the nation into war can hardly be construed a less incendiary accusation.

But even if one dismisses the opposition's rush to tar Netanyahu with "incitement" as standard posturing, Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky was right to speak out against Netanyahu's remarks. " 'A good Jew' or 'not a good Jew' is not measured by political worldview. I expect all leaders would emphasize the things that unite us and not what divides us," admonished Sharansky. Even by the low standards of political discourse, there is no excuse for any public figure, much less the prime minister, to stoop to such levels.

In the radio interview, Netanyahu explained that what he meant to say was "The principle that guided both the Left and the Right during the course of Zionism ... [was that] the security of Israel was to be the sole responsibility of Israel and would not be entrusted to others. This principle was forgotten by quite a few members of the left-wing, and that is what I was talking about, nothing else." What nonsense. At the same time Netanyahu sat with Kadourie, his own defense minister was meeting with Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat to negotiate the resumption of security cooperation, which the government has been vociferously demanding for months.

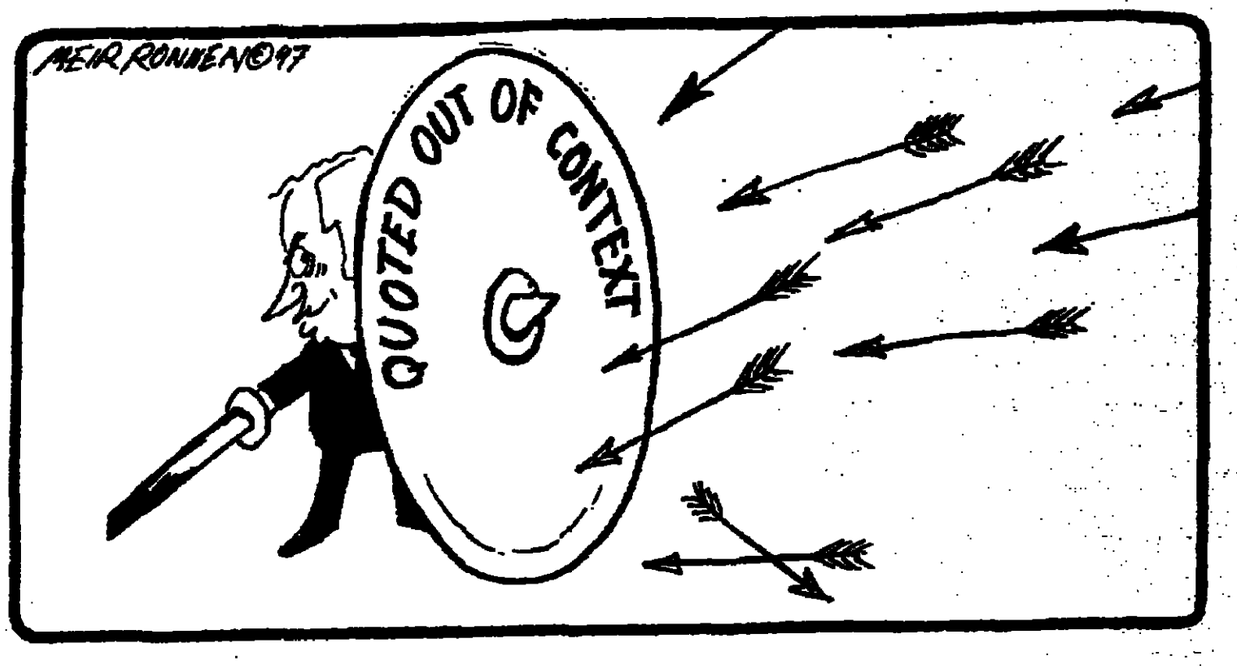
For better or for worse, the Oslo Accords transferred a significant portion of the burden of combating terrorism from Israel's "sole responsibility" to the shoulders of Yasser Arafat. Though there might be some changes around the edges of this policy under Netanyahu, the basic principle remains utterly intact.

It is somewhat pathetic that even Netanyahu's private comments seem to match a public pattern of attempting to build himself up, not by defending his own accomplishments, but by continuing to trash his opponents. The cynicism, smallness, and divisiveness of this approach is compounded by the fact that he is accusing his opponents of a sin that, if it has any basis, could be applied equally to his own policies.

Netanyahu rightly criticized former prime minister Yitzhak Rabin for disparaging public remarks that served to delegitimize whole segments of Israelis, such as the settler movement. Netanyahu also claimed he had nothing to do with a campaign slogan claiming that a vote for him was "good for the Jews," thereby deliberately marginalizing Israeli Arabs.

The idea that a government of the Right has a unique ability to unite the people behind the tough choices that are inherent in peacemaking was and remains a major pillar of the government's claim to a public mandate. But the real potential for such unity can easily be squandered by a prime minister who cannot shake a negative, destructive style that is all too common in election campaigns, but has no place in one who wears the mantle of governance.

The issue at hand is not so much whether Netanyahu will apologize for his unintentionally public smear of so many Israelis, though such an apology would certainly be welcome. The issue is whether Netanyahu will demonstrate that his desire for national unity is not just lip service, but will be reflected in his own words, behavior, and policies.



Divide and perish

MOSHE ARENS

It is hard to believe that the religious parties pressuring the government for the enactment of the conversion bill have given serious thought to the potentially disastrous consequences this law could have on the unity of the Jewish people and the future of the Jewish state.

That they would prefer to establish by law their existing control over religious practices in Israel is understandable, but are they really so shortsighted as to disregard the long-range consequences of the resulting chasm they would open between Israel and the largest Jewish community in the Diaspora, American Jewry? Do not they really understand the vital importance of the ties that bind world Jewry to the Jewish state, and the disrupting effect this law would have on the unity of the Jewish people? Are they, any less than Israel's secular citizens, concerned with the unity of the Jewish people, with its very survival?

The Jewish people almost perished during World War II. Six million killed by the Germans. Millions dispersed throughout the Soviet Union, seemingly separated from Jewry, Judaism and Zionism forever. American Jewry well on the road to assimilation. The establishment of Israel changed all that. The ingathering of the exiles, but no less so, the surging identification of Diaspora Jewry with Israel, brought about a renaissance of the Jewish people.

The support of American Jewry for Israel and for the immigration of Soviet Jewry to Israel played a crucial role in helping Israel overcome all odds and making it what it is today. Their moral, economic, and political support for Israel sustained it during its darkest hours. The slogan "we are one" symbolizes the solidarity of the Jewish people throughout the world and their attachment to Israel. This feeling of solidarity and a common destiny embraced Jews, regardless of whether they were Orthodox, Conservative or Reform.

The aim of Israel's religious and spiritual leaders should be to bring unity to the Jewish people

American Reform Jewry, which prior to the establishment of Israel had already taken the first step to assimilation, became a Zionist movement, many of its leaders, together with leaders of the Conservative and Orthodox movement in America, heading the support for Israel in the US.

ISRAEL'S founding fathers were sufficiently farsighted to formulate the Law of Return so that anyone who considered himself to be Jewish could immigrate to Israel, thus permitting even those who had been separated from their Jewish roots in the years of wars and revolutions to return to their ancient homeland and become again full-fledged members of the Jewish nation. After all, that was to be the destiny of the new-born Jewish state. It is in this spirit that Israel should continue to relate to Jews in the Diaspora.

Those who claim that the conversion bill affects only Israel's Jewish population, and should therefore be of no concern to Jews in the Diaspora seem to prefer to ignore the nature of the ties that bind Diaspora Jewry to Israel. For them there, as well as for us here, it is a partnership. This partnership is bound to be greatly weakened once a law, passed in the Knesset, delegates most of them to an inferior status as compared to their Orthodox brethren, even if it has no effect on their daily lives there. The partnership may not survive this kind of a break. The result will be a weaker Jewish people and a weaker Israel.

Moreover, it is essential that Israel's religious leadership understand the crisis presently facing Jewry in all of the western Diaspora. A rising intermarriage rate together with growing assimilation is in the process of diminishing the number of Jews in the world. Aside from those belonging to Orthodox communities who are immune to these developments, the others – Reform and Conservative – see their connection to Judaism largely through their ties with Israel. Weakening that tie, which the conversion bill will surely do if enacted, is bound to weaken their ties to Judaism and to the Jewish people. That cannot be the aim of Israel's religious and spiritual leaders, whose mission should be to bring unity to the Jewish people.

It is not too late for them to withdraw their support for a law that will divide and weaken the Jewish people.

The writer is a former defense and foreign minister.

No room for compromise

JONATHAN ROSENBLUM

The Neeman Committee, charged with finding a compromise solution to avoid a clash with Diaspora Jewry over the conversion bill, set itself a task worthy of Rumpelstiltskin. Predictably, however, the alchemists' attempt to turn straw into gold has failed.

To understand why, it is necessary to know only one fact: A convert to Judaism must accept upon himself the mitzvot of the Torah. Without that acceptance, the formal procedures that follow – circumcision, immersion in a *mikve*, etc. – are meaningless.

Maimonides states the matter clearly: "When a gentile wishes to enter the covenant, and dwell under the wings of the Divine Presence, and accept upon himself the yoke of the Torah, then he needs circumcision and immersion..." Acceptance of the mitzvot is the necessary precondition for the procedures that follow.

Even in theory, both the Conservative and Reform movements reject, in one way or another, the binding authority of Halacha. For Neil Gilman, a professor of theology at the (Conservative) Jewish Theological Seminary, a binding mitzva is whatever a particular individual chooses to recognize as binding at a given moment in time.

And for Reform theologians, like Eugene Borowitz, the very idea of mitzva, which binds a Divine Commander to the one who is commanded, is anathema. Borowitz recognizes the individual conscience as the only valid guide and rejects all external authority: "As long as we do not establish our own standards of conduct, we are not autonomous ethically, not fully mature."

And in practice, virtually no Reform Jews and few Conservative Jews observe even a small fraction of the mitzvot. As a result, a would-be convert who continues to identify with either of the heterodox movements is effectively declaring that he does not accept upon himself the binding force of Halacha in all its details.

That is where the Neeman proposals flounder. To be acceptable to the Reform and Conservative movements, any compromise must guarantee that their candidates for conversion will be duly certified by an "Orthodox" rabbinical court. Yet for an Orthodox court to do so, it would have to ignore the evidence in front of its nose and eschew any serious inquiry into the candidate's intention to keep mitzvot.

The Conservative and Reform leadership has taken a page out of the antisemites' book

In short, the fix must be in. No subsequent immersion in holy water can cure that infirmity.

THOSE who charge that the Orthodox parties' rejection of the Neeman proposals is determined by extra-halachic considerations are thus either ignorant of Halacha or contemptuous of it. The charge is but one more shot in a sustained disinformation campaign conducted by the Conservative and Reform movements for the past year.

American Jews, who have, in most cases, never met an Orthodox Jew in their life, have been treated to sermon after sermon proclaiming Orthodox Jews the greatest threat to Jewish unity and the conversion bill the most important issue facing the Jewish people.

In their cynical campaign to extract more money from communal coffers and gain official recognition in Israel, the heterodox movements have waged a no-holds-barred war. They have not even stopped at lobbying congressmen to condition vital American aid to Israel on withdrawal of the conversion bill, according to a recent front-page article in the *Jewish Forward*.

The big lie that Orthodox Jews do not view the non-Orthodox as Jewish has been repeated so often that denials fall on deaf ears. Yet no Orthodox organization or leader has ever suggested that halachic status as a Jew is a function of one's level of belief or observance.

As a practical matter, the conversion bill is totally irrelevant to Diaspora Jews. It applies only to conversions performed in Israel and does nothing more than preserve in legislation the status quo that has prevailed since the creation of the state. The Interior Ministry was required by the High Court nearly a decade ago to recognize Reform or Conservative conversions performed abroad, and the proposed conversion law does nothing to challenge that decision.

As Ruth Wisse has pointed out, political elites throughout history have recognized Jew hatred as the best formula for uniting the antagonistic elements in society, as well as a proven success at diverting attention from the failure of those elites. The Conservative and Reform leadership has taken a page out of the antisemites' book in turning the Orthodox into the bete noire of modern Jewish life.

Want to know why 80 percent of Los Angeles' 600,000 Jews are not affiliated with any synagogue, or why American Jewry has been in numerical decline for 70 years, or why, at current rates of reproduction and intermarriage, the non-Orthodox segments of American Jewry will decline by nearly 75% over the next two decades, look no further: It's the Orthodox.

Until the last 200 years, Jews maintained a remarkable degree of unity despite their dispersion over the globe without a land of their own.

That unity was made possible by their common law. How odd, then, that the one group committed to the preservation of that law should be pictured as the ultimate threat to Jewish unity for insisting that Halacha is not whatever you want it to be.

The writer is a Jerusalem Post *columnist.*

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PRINCE OF WALES

Sir, - As you might imagine, many hundreds of thousands of people around the world have, since the tragic death of Diana, Princess of Wales, sent letters of condolence and presents to The Prince of Wales, Prince William and Prince Harry at St. James's Palace in London. The colume of correspondence has been quite overwhelming and, whilst the Prince of Wales has ensured that as many as possible of the more than 300,000 letters have been answered, this will not be possible in every case.

It is with this in mind that The Prince of Wales and the young Princes have asked me to make known to the people of Israel their deep appreciation of the very kind thoughts and tremendous generosity which they have shown in the many letters they have written and the gifts they have sent. The Prince of Wales and his sons have been tremendously touched by the public support shown to them all over the world, and have taken great strenth from it.

The Prince of Wales and his sons would like, through me, to say thank you, and to pass on to everybody who wrote to them their heartfelt best wishes, and to assure them that every letter has been read and each one gratefully received.

DAVID MANNING,
HM Ambassador,
British Embassy,
Tel Aviv

COMMUNITY THEATER

Sir, - We, at the Tel Aviv Community Theater, are planning an Israel Jubilee theater piece which will be a living history of those who immigrated from English speaking countries between 1948 (or before) and the present. To this end we want to get contributions countrywide in prose and/or music. What we're looking for is a first person account of a turning point, of the moment when somebody said to him or herself for the first time or the 100th, "why yes, That's why I'm here." It can be any event or happening. It can be serious, sad, satirical, funny, written however the writer best expresses him/herself. If prose then around 200 words, a verse piece can be 12-14 lines and rhymed or not.

Contributions should be sent to "Jubilee, 5 Hamasger St., Tel Aviv 61283. If anyone wants more guidance and/or suggestions for suitable projects, please send a stamped addressed envelope to the same address.

The projected production date is June 1998.

HELEN ELEASARI
Director, TACT
Tel Aviv

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

60 years ago: On October 24, 1937, *The Palestine Post* reported that Avinoam Yellin, Senior Inspector of Jewish Schools, had died from bullet wounds inflicted by an unknown assailant.

Davar, the organ of the Jewish Labor Federation and the Hebrew daily with the largest circulation in the country, was suspended for a week following the publication of an article criticizing the new Immigration Ordinance. *Al Carmel*, a periodical published in Haifa, had been suspended for four weeks.

Numerous shooting and bombing incidents were reported from different parts of the country. Telephone lines were cut. Road and railway communications were attacked by sporadic firing.

Two Arabs were killed and two others wounded in Haifa and Jerusalem by unknown persons.

50 years ago: On October 24, 1947, *The Palestine Post* reported that Britain had drawn up plans to withdraw her troops and administration from Palestine by March 1949, "at the very latest," failing UN settlement of the problem.

The three sub-committees appointed by the Ad Hoc Committee on Palestine of the UN General Assembly began their work on detailed proposals for the Partitioning of Palestine. Britain, according to correspondents, continued her campaign to be as unhelpful as possible.

Despite their own plight, the Jewish refugees in Cyprus had offered to forgo their monthly quota of 700 certificates to be granted to *Exodus 1947* "illegal" immigrants detained in Germany.

25 years ago: On October 24, 1972, *The Jerusalem Post* reported stiffer penalties to be imposed for crimes of violence.

Education Minister Yigal Allon turned over to the Attorney-General a complaint that antiquities belonging to Defense Minister Moshe Dayan were exported without a permit.

The Absorption Ministry reported that 225,000 immigrants will have arrived in Israel by the end of 1972 since the Six Day War.

Alexander Zvielli

POSTSCRIPTS

AN OBSCURE tropical fruit that smells like vomit and tastes just as good is the latest alternative health craze, supposed to fix everything from multiple sclerosis to menstrual cramps, eczema, depression, cancer, headache and sickle cell anemia.

The noni fruit is distilled into a pleasant-tasting juice (Tahitian Noni Juice) or freeze-dried into capsules (Hawaiian Noni), and the distributors of *Morinda citrifolia* products say they can barely keep up with the demand.

Like ginseng, ephedra, Pycnogenol or any number of herbal remedies, the noni fad has spread largely by word of mouth among the adherents of nontraditional cures, helped by toll-free numbers and hundreds of Web sites belonging to cyber-salespeople.

This particular cure-all went from being a folk medicine found wild in the South Pacific to a heavily promoted "miracle," a story not uncommon in the ever-growing market of alternative health remedies.

The noni products are not available in health food stores — the cost of shelf space is too high, the marketers say, so most of them use network marketing.

The plant itself looks like a hand grenade and smells like — well, the descriptions range from the commonly heard vomit to "dirty feet," "Limburger cheese"or "really gnarly."

Although the noni fruit has been used for years as a folk remedy in many tropical countries, there is very little scientific research available to substantiate the sellers' claims.

ONLY IN Israel Dept.: Zev Kesselman of Moshav Elazar tells us about a bizarre debate that arose during a Hebrew-language Scrabble game.

His 12-year-old son Danny had just won a close game. His opponent, a friend named Yinon, challenged the last play, claiming that Danny's spelling of God's name (yod-heh) is against the rules. He pointed out that it would be capitalized were it English, and was therefore unacceptable.

But Hebrew has no capital letters, Danny argued, and they consulted his father.

Zev, a former Israel Scrabble champion (in English), looked it up in a standard reference dictionary and found three definitions: (1) God's name; (2) a suffix indicating greatness, as in "shalheveteyah" — a great flame (clearly not a stand-alone word); (3) an exclamation of grief, cited in the Midrash.

Zev allowed the play on the basis of the third definition. But Yinon then made a second claim: since yod-heh is an Ineffable Name, Danny is not *allowed* to write it. Zev – who, like the two players, is Orthodox – ruled that since they were playing on Shabbat, there was a tacit agreement that placing letters on the board was not writing.

Yinon walked off in a huff, saying: "Well, if you want to win on the basis of sacrilege, then go right ahead!"

هكذا من الأصل

Amr Moussa's courtesy call

MOSHE ZAK

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa, who met Foreign Minister David Levy in Tel Aviv this week, took care to make it clear he was not conducting substantive talks by announcing that this was only a courtesy visit. An experienced diplomat like Moussa is well aware that it is not proper etiquette to dictate in public to his host the nature of their meeting before it takes place. He did so deliberately, to remind Israel's government that Egyptian leaders don't make official visits to Israel.

If Anwar Sadat had conditioned his visit to Jerusalem on progress in negotiations, there would never have been a peace treaty with Egypt

This refusal stems from the Egyptians' desire to insult Israel indirectly for preferring American mediation to Egyptian involvement in the negotiations with the Palestinians.

Egypt doesn't let Israel forget that it is very involved in the diplomatic process. Cairo knows that talking with Israel on the Palestinian question grants it some status on the issue. This is why it invites Israeli leaders (the president, the prime minister, and the foreign minister, as well as opposition figures) to official visits in Egypt. All this comes from the foolish belief that the absence of return visits by Egyptian officials will hurt Israel's standing. Moussa was trying to emphasize this by the announcement of the nature of his meeting with Levy before it took place.

Egypt has another technique for insulting Israel: making visits or participation in conferences conditional on progress in the negotiations with the Palestinians. The speaker of the Egyptian parliament used this technique in his talks with the three MKs who invited him to visit the Knesset. He said that as long as there was no progress in the negotiations, he couldn't come. If Anwar Sadat had done the same, there would never have been a peace treaty with Egypt. He came to the Knesset before there was any progress in the negotiations and transformed the region.

Another example of this hollow formula can be found in the announcement of Egypt's participation in the upcoming economic conference in Qatar. Egypt couldn't refuse the US request. After all, in the final analysis, it will be one of the chief beneficiaries of the fund and the bank being established on the basis of these conferences. But Egypt didn't want to let go of the "progress in the negotiations with the Palestinians" card, especially not in the month before the Qatar conference opens.

SO Cairo forthrightly denied that it had already agreed to come to Qatar, and said that everything depended on progress in the negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians. The purpose was obvious: Egypt wants to claim credit for any concession Israel makes during the current negotiations.

In the case of Qatar, Egypt has a direct interest. This was expressed in the indirect pressure that Egypt put on Qatar (though it denied doing so) not to allow an Israeli mission to be set up in Doha. Egypt viewed unfavorably the dealings between Israel and an American company to supply Qatari natural gas to Israel, which might compete with Egypt's plan to sell gas to Israel, so it has been trying to minimize contact between Israel and Qatar.

The peace treaty with Egypt survives. The Egyptians are certainly not about to annul it. They don't want to risk a fierce diplomatic conflict with the US, which favors them with military and economic aid.

The Egyptians have long-range plans in America. They are aware that the US Jewish community is Israel's chief support, and are doing everything they can to force a wedge between parts of this community and Israel, especially over the Palestinian question. For this reason Egypt supports every Palestinian initiative against Israel in the UN Security Council. All this is done under the umbrella of the peace treaty.

That umbrella is still there, but this week's storms are not the only thing that might blow it away. The wrong move or the wrong pose of one belly dancer could become a "dark cloud over the relationship between Israel and Egypt," as the Egyptian Ambassador Mohammed Bassiouny put it.

The Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem was perfectly right in refusing to react to Amr Moussa's statement in Cairo, as well as on his public speech in Tel Aviv.

In his lecture to the "Peres Center for Peace," which was far from a courtesy speech, Moussa blamed Israel for the deadlock in the peace process. It is easy to refute such allegations, but the exchange of public accusations will only serve to escalate the existing tension and won't help the peace process.

Nevertheless, one cannot overlook the worrisome signs emanating from Egypt, such as pamphlets distributed in Cairo entitled "The hookers' war: Jewish women and Arab politicians." Not to mention Egyptian Defense Minister Gen. Mohammed Hassan Tantawi's statement this month that the Egyptian army is ready for a rapid transition from a state of peace to a state of war.

The writer is a Jerusalem Post *columnist.*



Wanted: A new PM

MARK A. HELLER

Once again, the idea of a national unity government is in the news. Even over the Succot holiday, when nothing else in Israel gets done, the politicians have been busy consulting and the commentators have been busy analyzing. President Ezer Weizman has even postponed his scheduled visit to China, presumably because he anticipates some dramatic political development in the next few months.

But there is little evidence to explain why the issue has again bubbled to the surface of the political debate and even less to indicate that a national unity government will actually happen. And there is no reason at all to think that it would provide any real relief from the problems facing Israel – unless it were headed by a different prime minister.

Some of current problems on the agenda, such as the conversion bill and the upcoming budget, are potentially serious challenges to the coalition, but none is so qualitatively different from other problems over the past eighteen months that it should produce a different outcome. Instead, the national mood that produces this latest round of speculation seems to be a product of cumulative disillusionment at the performance of the Prime Minister Netanyahu, perhaps provoked by the cyclical urge to take stock at this time of year.

After the fiasco of the attempted assassination of Khaled Mashaal in Jordan, *The Economist* put Netanyahu on its front cover and labeled him a "serial bungler." *The Economist* is not the necessarily the most reliable source of judgment about Israel, in general, or Netanyahu, in particular. Still, its assessment is increasingly shared by important elements in the government and the coalition, and if the prime minister is vulnerable at all, it is as much because of dissatisfaction with his management style and doubts about his competence as it is because of disagreements with his policies.

Senior political leaders complain that if he consults at all, it is with a small coterie of trusted advisors, including a hardball image designer from the United States. The result is that Israel

With a different hand at the helm – Labor or Likud – a national unity government could provide a minimum degree of stability and damage control

lurches from one mini-crisis to another – from the Western Wall Tunnel through the Bar-On Affair, Har Homa, Ras al-Amud and Mashaal to the conversion bill – while the captain of this enterprise steers a course that threatens to end in a disastrous collision with American Jewry, the US administration, and the Arab world.

BUT there is nothing new about this. Two cabinet ministers have already resigned, and several others are known to be constantly irritated by the manner in which the prime minister operates. Two of those, David Levy and Ariel Sharon, have publicly expressed their unhappiness on more than one occasion. So what?

If the problem is the incumbent prime minister, then it doesn't matter what kind of government he heads. A national unity government headed by Netanyahu might eliminate some of the budgetary extortion by smaller parties and it could probably postpone a showdown on religious legislation.

But the disarray in foreign and security policy and the sense of national drift will not be addressed unless the prime minister himself is replaced. And that is highly improbable before the year 2000 (and perhaps not even then), because too many ministers and other Knesset members, who might otherwise favor this outcome, are not prepared to bring it about if the price includes cutting short their own term of office.

The only constitutional escape from this cul-de-sac is a new election for prime minister without also dissolving the Knesset. And that can only happen if 80 Knesset members – and not 61 – vote no-confidence in Netanyahu. But while 80 is a bigger mathematical challenge, it may ironically be a smaller political hurdle. The key would be to ensure that all Knesset members and at least some of the ministers could retain their posts, and that would happen if both candidates in the prime ministerial election pledged themselves in advance to form a national unity government at least until the next Knesset elections, regardless of the outcome.

Even with a different prime minister, such a government would be hampered by differing views about what needs to be done, and it could not promise any breakthroughs that would bring Israel to the safe harbor of peace and security. But with a different hand at the helm – Labor or Likud – a national unity government could provide a minimum degree of stability and damage control and ensure that the ship of state will remain intact until the next general elections.

The writer is senior research associate at the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies at Tel Aviv University.

Direct democracy

GERALD M. STEINBERG

Contrary to the views of talk-show hosts and columnists, neither the problems of this government, nor its very existence, can be blamed on the direct election of the prime minister. In the Knesset, Yossi Beilin and Yitzhak Shamir (a truly odd couple) are lobbying to roll back this change, reinstating the old system. However, if they are successful, they will only replace one bad idea with one that is worse.

Instead, Israel needs further reform, extending the principle of direct elections to members of the Knesset themselves. This could be done in a variety of ways, through a system of constituencies, perhaps leaving as many as 50 percent of the seats for proportional representation on the basis of a single national constituency. This would free the executive branch (the prime minister and cabinet) from the psychological and political intrigues of coalition politics. In addition, by opening up the process, more qualified people would be attracted to political careers, replacing the party hacks that dominate the system today.

The critics of the existing law base their argument on two assertions: Under the old system, Binyamin Netanyahu would never have become prime minister; and even if Netanyahu had become prime minister, under the old system, he would have been replaced months ago.

These arguments are not only factually wrong, but they are also wrong-headed, with the goal of denying the legitimacy of the outcome of the 1996 elections. The change in the law did not alter the distribution of support between the Left, Right, and religious blocs. Had the elections been held under the old system, a Likud-religious coalition would still have formed the majority, and Netanyahu, as head of the Likud, would have become prime minister. The swing voters who determined the outcome in 1996 voted against Shimon Peres and the Labor/Meretz coalition, and would have done so in larger numbers under the old process.

The claim, made recently by Moshe Arens, that removing a failed government in mid-term was easier under the old system, is also specious. In theory, under that system, 61 MKs could vote no-confidence, forcing the prime minister to resign, without requiring new elections. However, will all due respect to Arens, this process featured escalating bribes demanded by marginal MKs willing to change allegiance.

In April 1990, when Peres and Beilin broke up the national unity government, the bidding contest for the support of Yitzhak Moda'i, Avraham Sharir, and some of the religious parties was the trigger that led to the change in the election law in the first place. A return to that system will mean more such "stinking maneuvers." It will certainly do nothing to improve the quality of our politicians or politics.

UNDER the current system, if only 61 MKs vote no-confidence, they must also go before the voters and face new elections. This may prolong the life of an awkward government, but it makes MKs put their own futures on the line when they decide to bring down a government, and this is a healthy development for democracy.

The problem is that the electoral changes did not go far enough, leaving us with a system that is neither parliamentary nor presidential, but more appropriate for Chelm. Originally, the change in the electoral system was to include direct election of the Knesset and to allow the prime minister to make policy free from the constraints of coalition politics and factional leadership. These terms were dropped because party leaders and MKs were afraid of direct elections for their own positions.

By focusing public attention on the prime minister, the Knesset also avoids drawing attention to its own failures. For the creation of checks and balances, the Knesset must be able to function independently, but there are few signs that the members of this usually empty body are capable of providing alternative policy choices and direction.

The system of party lists has also dissuaded the "best and the brightest" from becoming involved in politics. The field is dominated by apparatchiks who use the system for personal gain, by power brokers, and by a few retired military leaders with large egos, who "parachute" into the top echelons without political experience.

The system encourages mutual suspicion and conflict – witness the melodrama featuring David Levy and Ariel Sharon – while discouraging teamwork and cooperation. In other words, the prime minister may be directly elected, but he is still dependent on coalition deals and processes based on an antiquated electoral system.

The next step in reform is to extend the process of direct election to MKs. Party primaries have already reduced the power of the *machers* in the back rooms, but "vote contractors," bloc voting, and factional deals still determine the outcome of the primaries.

To open up the system to newcomers, and to encourage qualified people to enter politics, we need to free the Knesset from the tyranny of party bosses and deal makers. The direct election of both the Knesset and the prime minister would go along way towards improving the choices and the quality of our political leadership.

The writer directs the arms control program at the BESA Center for Strategic Studies at Bar-Ilan University.

A case of more than disquieting criticism

ALLAN E. SHAPIRO

Cynicism has become a dominant popular mood in today's Israel. It doesn't hurt the politicians.

Popular standards may be high, but expectations are low. Netanyahu's credibility hasn't improved, but his standing in the polls apparently has.

This may be the latest "Made in America" import to our political system. In the last US presidential elections, many who no longer believed Clinton were not dissuaded from voting for him. Similarly, Netanyahu's post-fiasco TV appearances have a positive public impact, from his point of view, even if they hardly add to his credibility.

Cynicism helps explain why acquittal on criminal charges for lack of evidence is somehow presented as a special qualification for high office. Ehud Olmert has announced his decision to run for a second term as mayor of Jerusalem.

Remember, the court found that, as treasurer in the 1988 Likud election campaign, he was only negligent in his report to the state comptroller on campaign contributions; but since there was insufficient evidence that he knew what was going on, he wasn't criminally liable. Quite a recommendation! The court decided that Olmert was not guilty. Who can ask for more of a politician?

Cynicism does not stop with politics. It infects popular perceptions of other areas of public life that were once seen as beyond the political marketplace. The Olmert acquittal was somehow perceived as additional evidence of partisan bias in the state attorney's decisions to bring charges against political figures. (The subsequent acquittal of Labor-stalwart Simcha Dinitz did little to change the reaction.) Now the mood of disbelief has shifted to the attorney-general.

The attorney-general's job is the defense of the rule of law. He should be above having to defend himself

The issue is whether a youth suspected of a brutal murder in the United States is an Israeli citizen. Attorney-General Rubinstein has made a finding that he is not. This could pave the way for his extradition.

Rubinstein's finding will no doubt be challenged before the appropriate judicial tribunal.

It is currently being challenged in the court of public opinion, as the decision of a diplomat with a developed sensitivity to American political pressure, rather than that of a jurist.

The attorney-general's opinion with regard to the youth's citizenship has been widely attacked as directed at placating American public opinion.

Actually, it is the minister of justice, not the attorney-general, who decides whether to apply to the court for a writ of extradition. A decade ago, Avraham Sharir, then minister of justice, had to answer to the High Court for his refusal to ask for the extradition to France of William Nakash, also wanted on a murder charge.

Sharir refused to extradite, due to domestic religious pressure. In previous cases, foreign political pressure worked in the opposite direction. It caused the bending of our legal processes to satisfy American demands for the return of fugitives from justice. The new element in the present case is the targeting of the attorney-general as the object of public criticism.

See CRITICISM, Page 21

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NEWS

in brief

Congo Brazzaville's new leader in capital

BRAZZAVILLE (Reuters) – Congo Republic's civil war victor, former Marxist military dictator, Denis Sassou Nguesso arrived in the bombed-out capital yesterday and vilified ousted president Pascal Lissouba, the first democratically elected president, as a "criminal and enemy of the people."

Soldiers from the Angolan army, which helped propel Sassou to power last Wednesday in the oil rich West African country, checked his route into Brazzaville. Angolan intervention smashed a weak and comparatively poorly equipped government army and allied militias last week.

3 white South African bombers jailed for life

JOHANNESBURG (Reuters) – Three white right-wingers convicted of two bombings near Cape Town that killed four people last year were sentenced to life imprisonment yesterday, state radio said. Cliffie Barnard, Jan van der Westhuizen, and Koper Myburgh received four life terms and 88 years each for the Christmas Eve bomb attacks, which also wounded over 60 people.

The two pipe bombs exploded in a supermarket and pharmacy in the town of Worcester 90 km northeast of Cape Town. The men belonged to an unknown fringe group called "Israel Vision," which believes whites are the chosen race.

Czech foreign minister steps down

PRAGUE, Czech Republic (AP) – Czech Foreign Minister Josef Zieleniec, who is also deputy chairman of the Civic Democratic Party, said yesterday he is leaving both posts, apparently due to differences with Premier Vaclav Klaus.

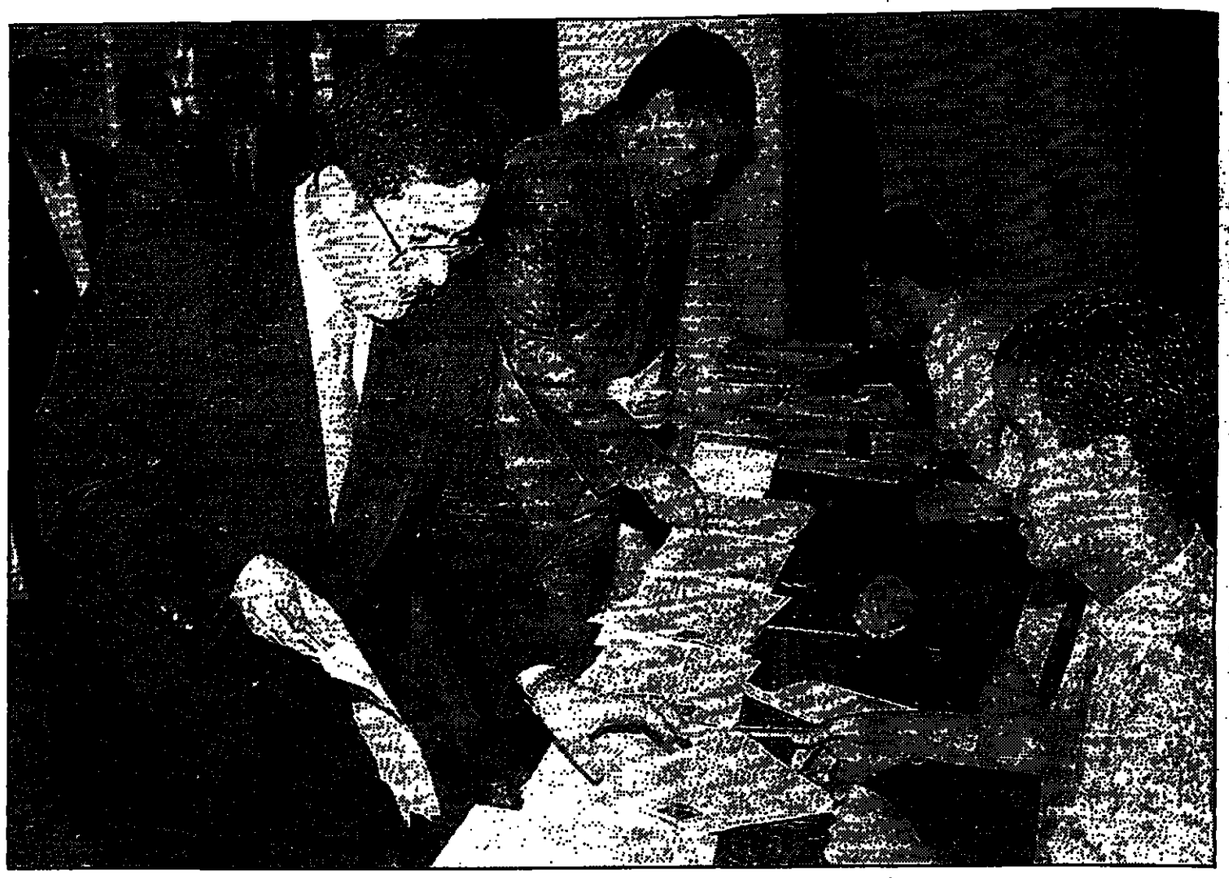
The news agency CTK quoted Zieleniec as saying he disagrees with the way in which his party's candidate for interior minister is being selected and that he has not been informed of important changes in the party's financial management.

President Vaclav Havel immediately announced that he was not accepting Zieleniec's resignation.

'Philip Morris to test "smokeless" cigarette'

NEW YORK (AP) – The world's largest cigarette company plans to test a microelectronic cigarette holder that eliminates most of the smoke and ashes from a cigarette, *The New York Times* reported yesterday. Over the next month, the Accord – a beeper-sized, 120-gram box containing a special cigarette and an electronically controlled lighter – will be tested by Philip Morris Cos. in the US and Japan. The device will eliminate 90% of secondhand smoke, but smokers will still inhale the same amount of tar and nicotine as in conventional ultralight cigarettes.

Algerians vote under tight security



Algerian Prime Minister Ahmed Ouyahia (left) and Interior Minister Mustapha Benmansour choose candidates in local elections in Algiers yesterday. (AP)

ALGIERS (AP) – Security forces kept a discreet watch on polling stations while Algerians cast ballots yesterday in local elections, the last of four votes aimed at squelching an Islamic revival that has snowballed into an insurgency.

It was the first vote for local and regional officials since 1990, when the Islamic Salvation Front swept into the political spotlight with a resounding victory, taking nearly half of all city halls and all major cities.

The now-banned party called for a boycott of yesterday's vote for some 15,000 local and regional assembly representatives. More than 84,000 candidates were running nationwide. Final results are not expected before later today.

While security forces battle Islamic insurgents, President Liamine Zeroual, a retired general, has undertaken a vast restructuring of the nation's political institutions that, under a veneer of democracy, gives the president greater control and squelches militant Islam.

This election was lackluster, dominated by fears of a high abstention rate among Algeria's nearly 16 million registered voters and scores skewed by fraud, as they were in June legislative elections. The Interior Ministry said the turnout was 55.7 percent at 6 p.m.

Security forces kept a watch on polling stations in the capital, but were out in force in some suburbs that have been flashpoints for violence in an insurgency that has killed an estimated 75,000 people in nearly six years.

Violence wracking Algeria was a favorite theme of many of the candidates – 10 of whom were killed while campaigning – and the dominant reason cited by voters for going to the polls.

"I'm voting above all for safety, so that my children don't die with their throats slit," said a 36-year-old school teacher in the western suburb of Kouba, once a rallying point for the now-banned Islamic Salvation Front.

The winners of yesterday's vote will serve as a pool from which two-thirds of the members of a new upper house of parliament will be drawn. Zeroual will pick the other third – giving him virtual control of the legislature.

Nearly half the winners will replace appointees of the military-backed government which fired Salvation Front representatives in a crackdown on fundamentalists poised to win a January 1992 legislative vote. The army canceled that vote, triggering the insurgency.

"Politically, socially, and institutionally, terrorism is being isolated," Foreign Minister Ahmed Attaf said at a news conference Wednesday. The Islamic Salvation Army, the Salvation Front's military wing, called a unilateral cease-fire October 1.

Security forces have worked for weeks to clean out an Armed Islamic Group stronghold in Ouled Allel south of Algiers, uncovering a labyrinth of tunnels, bunkers, bomb-making factories, documents, and supplies stolen in village raids. Earlier this week, security forces killed the group's leader in the eastern city of Constantine, the French-language newspaper *El Watan* reported yesterday.

In a separate operation in Constantine, they killed his right-hand man, who was reportedly carrying a list of candidates to be slain, the paper said.

Pol Pot says: My conscience is clear

SIEM REAP, Cambodia (Reuters) – Cambodian leader Hun Sen yesterday rejected the notorious Pol Pot's insistence that he was not responsible for genocide, and said he hopes to arrest the leader of the "killing fields" regime by year end.

"Why do we need to state that Pol Pot denied killing people? The people who are present here are the remains of Pol Pot's killing," Hun Sen told a news conference in Siem Reap after meeting Cambodian King Norodom Sihanouk.

An unrepentant Pol Pot, in an interview in the latest edition of the Hong Kong-based *Far East Economic Review*, denied that more than one million Cambodians died of murder, disease, or overwork during the 1975-79 "killing fields" regime.

"To say that millions died is too much," he said in the interview with the magazine. "My conscience is clear." Pol Pot's former comrades ousted him as leader of the Khmer Rouge in June after a bloody split among its leaders. He now lives under house arrest at the Khmer Rouge headquarters at Anlong Veng in the north Cambodian jungle.

Hun Sen said senior military officers had told him they thought it possible to capture Anlong Veng. "I hope we will arrest him... perhaps by the end of this year," the second prime minister said.

Other Cambodians also expressed disbelief and dismay that Pol Pot felt no remorse for the death and suffering endured during his Maoist-style revolution.

"When I lived under the Khmer regime I saw all kinds of tragedy. They forced me to work hard, I suffered a lot, there was no food to eat," said Ouk Thary, 34, a ticket seller at the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum in Phnom Penh.

The museum is a former school that was turned into a torture center during Pol Pot's rule. About 20,000 people were sent to Tuol Sleng. Only seven survived.

Ouk Thary said two of her brothers were killed and her father died of starvation under Pol Pot's rule. She said she could not accept Pol Pot's claim he had acted only to save Cambodia from Vietnamese domination.

Greek, Turkish ships clash

ANKARA (Reuters) – Turkish army chief Ismail Hakki Karadayi yesterday accused Greece of raising tension in the Aegean Sea after a Greek minesweeper brushed a Turkish patrol boat.

"We avoid provocations as much as possible... They [Greece] always hope to benefit from tension," he said.

Turkey's state-run Anatolian news agency said a Greek minesweeper on Wednesday hit a Turkish patrol ship that had come to prevent the Greek ship from "harassing" a Turkish submarine.

Greek Defense Ministry officials said their navy minesweeper brushed against a Turkish patrol boat, the result of "dangerous handling by the Turkish captain."

No injuries were reported on either side in the incident, which occurred in international waters between the two Greek islands of Chios and Lesbos.

Papon hospitalized

BORDEAUX (Reuters) – The trial of Maurice Papon for crimes against humanity in Nazi-occupied France was suspended until Monday after he was taken to hospital with bronchitis, Judge Jean-Louis Castagnede said yesterday.

Castagnede said doctors told him that the 87-year-old former cabinet minister, who had a triple heart bypass last year, was undergoing tests in the intensive care unit and his condition would not allow him to be in court "either today or tomorrow." Papon was admitted earlier in the day to the Haut Leveque hospital in the Bordeaux suburb of Pessac.

"He felt very weak when he got up this morning. He could not talk and was bent over. It was as if he had aged 20 years during the night," defense lawyer Francois Vuillemin said.

Papon is accused of ordering the arrest of 1,560 Jews from the Bordeaux region during the German occupation in World War II, when he was a senior civil servant in the pro-Nazi Vichy regime. He has denied the charges.

The trial was suspended for nearly an hour on Wednesday when Papon felt ill in court, but resumed after he was examined by doctors. He had already stayed in hospital overnight after a first bout of illness shortly after the start of his trial on October 8.

Defense lawyers have questioned before whether Papon is strong enough to survive the trial. The trial is expected to last until late December.

Retired Admiral Philippe de Gaulle said he saw little value in the trial, which he thought would not have taken place if his late father, General Charles de Gaulle, had still been in power.

Gere uses film premiere to press Clinton on China

WASHINGTON – While official Washington prepared for next week's state visit by Chinese President Jiang Zemin, actor Richard Gere turned the spotlight of his latest film premiere onto President Bill Clinton, asking him to stand firm against the Communist giant.

"We're not going to pretend this is a new, cuddly Communist Chinese government we have here. They haven't proven themselves yet," Gere said at a party late Wednesday following the premiere of *Red Corner*. In the film, which opens in US theaters October 31, Gere plays an American executive framed on murder charges in Beijing by corrupt officials.

Meanwhile, China yesterday criticized US plans to appoint a diplomat to coordinate policies on Tibet. The appointment, a spokesman said, "constitutes interference in our internal affairs."

An outspoken critic of China's human rights record and its control over Tibet, Gere planned a protest rally outside the White House next week plus his own "state-less" dinner, to coincide with the state dinner Clinton is hosting for Jiang.

"We've had a president who has been neither clear nor firm on China's human rights since the very beginning and that waffling ... with China has sent a message of weakness," the actor said.

Clinton has refused demands from human rights' activists and many religious leaders to condition China's Most Favored Nation trade status to improvements in human rights.

Gere's co-star, Bai Ling, said she hopes the film would focus international scrutiny on oppression in China, where her parents still live. Having left her country five years ago, the former Tiananmen Square protester said she is now even more afraid to return after her role in *Red Corner*. (News agencies)

Mir surges with power after repairs

MOSCOW (Reuters) – Russia's troubled Mir space station hummed with new energy yesterday after the crew linked two solar panels to a new computer guidance system following repairs carried out on Monday in Mir's Spektr module, officials said.

"The work was completed successfully," a Mission Control spokeswoman said after the final stage of a rewiring operation that began with the two Russian cosmonauts on board spending seven hours on Monday in energy-sapping spacesuits.

Two solar panels on the module now were tracking the sun's rays and soaking up maximum power after being plugged in to the guidance computer in the Kristall module, she said. Spektr was damaged in a near-fatal collision in June with an unmanned cargo craft.

Space officials said after Monday's mission that they expected to gain 30 percent more electricity. Mir lost about half its power after the collision, but various repairs have restored much of that over the past two months.

"We can now restart experiments which require a lot of electricity," the spokeswoman said yesterday.

The orbital laboratory was reduced to minimal functions for much of the time since the accident, leaving little spare energy for experiments being run by Russian, US and other international space agencies.

בס"ד

A memorial and unveiling ceremony in memory of our dear husband, father, brother and grandfather

DANIEL FERZIGER ז"ל

דניאל בן ראובן ומיכל פרויטר ז"ל

will be held on Sunday, October 26, 1997.
Location: Eretz Hachayyim Cemetery, Beit Shemesh.
Time: 9:30 a.m.

The Family

For more details please call: 09-765-0686 or 03-573-3563

With deep sorrow we announce the passing of our dear mother, sister, and grandmother

ERNA ESTHER SOFFE ז"ל

The funeral will take place today, Friday, October 24, 1997, at 10:30 a.m. at the Berman Synagogue, Yeshivat Hadarom, Rehovot, and will continue to the Holon Cemetery.

Shiva at Rehov Haraz 15, Rehovot
Tel. 08 -947-1947

Daughters: **Elise Hanhart**, Switzerland
Jenny Kartin, Rehovot
Sisters: **Hannah Rosenbaum**, England
Tila Hirsh, England

With great sorrow and deep despair we announce the passing at the fullness of her years our dear mother and grandmother

HENY YETY RAYERSBACH

The funeral will take place today, Friday, October 24, 1997 (כ"ג תשרי תשנח) at 11:15 a.m. at Kiryat Shaul Cemetery.

Shiva at the Menuha home, Rehov Kehilat Kishinov13, Hadar Yosef, Tel Aviv.

Son: **Uri** and family
Daughter: **Hava** and family
Grandchildren, and great-grandchildren

On the thirty-ninth anniversary of the death of our dear mother and grandmother

MALKA (Maria) LASZLO ע"ה

widow of the late journalist Ernst Zvi Laszlo ע"ה
we will visit her grave at Har Hamenuhot, Jerusalem on Tuesday, October 28, 1997, at 2:30 p.m.

The Family

The unveiling of the matzeva for our beloved mother and grandmother

TONI ROSEN ע"ה

will take place on Sunday, October 26 at 12 noon in the ancient cemetery in Safed

The Rosen and Rand Families

THERE'S A REASON WHY IT'S CALLED *SOLID* GOLD

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صكزامن الأصيل

Progress Report

FULFILLING OUR COMMITMENT

The Swiss banks are achieving significant progress towards resolving the issue of dormant World War II-era accounts in a fair and open manner.

Our major initiatives to date include:

■ Identifying Dormant Accounts

The Swiss banks are committed to identifying all accounts that could have belonged to victims of Nazi persecution.

In addition to conducting their own search for dormant accounts, the Swiss banks are providing complete access and assistance to hundreds of forensic auditors working for the Independent Committee of Eminent Persons, chaired by Paul A. Volcker and comprised of prominent Jewish and Swiss leaders.

■ Helping Needy Holocaust Survivors

The Swiss banks are committed to helping needy Holocaust survivors.

Earlier this year, the three largest Swiss banks, Credit Suisse, Swiss Bank Corporation, and UBS, contributed 100 million Swiss francs ($70 million) to establish a special fund for victims of the Holocaust. Other Swiss banks and Swiss industry have since contributed an additional 80 million Swiss francs ($55 million). With a pledge of 100 million Swiss francs from the Swiss National Bank, the fund now has a total of 280 million Swiss francs ($194 million). The Fund's board consists of representatives of Jewish organizations and private Swiss citizens and is chaired by Rolf Bloch, leader of the Swiss Jewish community. Proceeds from the Fund will soon be distributed to Holocaust survivors in Eastern Europe.

■ Publishing Dormant Accounts

The Swiss banks are committed to publishing dormant accounts.

In July, the Swiss banks published an initial list of World War II-era dormant accounts of non-Swiss customers in newspapers around the world and established an Internet site. The Swiss banks also established five international contact offices staffed by the accounting organization of Ernst & Young that was engaged to help rightful owners file claims.

■ Creating An Expedited Payment Process

The Swiss banks are committed to returning assets to their rightful owners quickly, easily and without cost to claimants.

To accomplish this objective, the banks have established a cost-free, expedited payment process, which is being supervised by an independent, international panel operating under relaxed standards of proof. Claims from the July list are now being processed and payments will be made shortly.

This progress demonstrates both the leadership and the seriousness of the Swiss banks in addressing and resolving this complex issue.

New Information Available

On October 29, the following World War II-era accounts will be published:

- Dormant passbooks and savings accounts of *non-Swiss* citizens.
- Dormant accounts of *non-Swiss* citizens that have been identified as a result of the Swiss banks' ongoing search.
- Dormant accounts belonging to *Swiss* citizens.

Call Our Contact Offices

If you wish to review these lists, please fill out the Information Kit Request Form and mail it to the nearest Ernst & Young contact office listed below. You will receive an Information Kit that includes the lists, fully describes the claims process, and explains how to file a claim.

- Ernst & Young LLP, c/o Dormant Accounts
  PO Box 1880, Radio City Station, New York, NY 10101
  +1-212-344-0610
- Kost Levary and Forer, c/o Dormant Accounts
  2 Kremenetski Street, Tel Aviv, Israel 67899, +972-3-623-2559
- ATAG Ernst & Young, c/o Dormant Accounts
  Aeschengraben 9, P.O. Box 2149, CH-4002 Basel
  Switzerland, +41-61-272-08-11
- Ernst & Young Kft, c/o Dormant Accounts
  1146 Budapest, Hermina út 17, Hungary, +36-1-343-5117
- Ernst & Young, c/o Dormant Accounts
  The Ernst & Young Building, G.P.O. Box 2646
  Sydney, N.S.W. 2001, Australia, +61-2-9248-5736

If you have already received an Information Kit from Ernst & Young, an updated kit will be mailed to you automatically.

Use Our Toll-Free Number Or Web Site

If you have any questions or need assistance, please call the following toll-free number:
1-800-471-471

You can also search for dormant accounts and review other pertinent information at the Swiss Bankers Association's Internet site:
http://www.dormantaccounts.ch

Information Kit Request Form

Please send me information about the Claims Process:

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City_____ State____ Zip Code_____

Country_____

Daytime Phone:_____

Please specify preferred language:

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☐ Czech ☐ Hungarian ☐ Italian ☐ Polish ☐ French
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SWISS BANKERS ASSOCIATION

SWISS BANKERS ASSOCIATION
ASSOCIATION SUISSE DES BANQUIERS
SCHWEIZERISCHE BANKIERVEREINIGUNG

Mandela: Libya bigger friend of S. Africa than Britain, US

TRIPOLI (Reuters) – South African President Nelson Mandela embraced Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi on Wednesday and promised after private talks to see him again "in a few days." Dismissing US objections to the visit as morally unfounded, Mandela, now on his way to Edinburgh for today's opening of the Commonwealth summit, hailed Gaddafi as a hero of the struggle against apartheid and more of a friend of South Africa than Britain or the United States.

Mandela rejected calls by the US to cancel the visit, which is his first since becoming president in 1994, but observed a United Nations air travel embargo by driving from the Tunisian side of the border about 160 km to Tripoli.

"This man helped us at a time when we were all alone, when those who say we should not come here were helping the enemy [South Africa's white government]," he told reporters after greeting Gaddafi with a hug and a kiss on each cheek. "Those who say I should not be here are without morals. I am not going to join them in their lack of morality."

Mandela said in a midnight speech after protracted private talks with Gaddafi: "I will be meeting my brother leader again in a few days." He told Reuters later the second meeting could be on his way back from next week's Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in Edinburgh or "a little later." He declined to expand on the purpose of the meeting, except to say that while it arose out of his private talks with Gaddafi, the second encounter could "address issues independent of those discussed tonight."

Mandela said earlier he was hoping for movement in the stalemate between Libya and the US and Britain over the venue for the trial of two Libyan suspects in the 1988 bombing of a Pan-Am jet over Lockerbie in Scotland, which cost 270 lives.

"It would be premature now to say exactly how we are going to search for a solution. [We] feel that to maintain these sanctions is to punish the ordinary people of Libya and that is why there is now great concern that the remaining sanctions must be lifted," he said.

He said South Africa supports the Organization of African Unity's call for a trial in a neutral third country and that he would seek to promote a resolution of the stalemate between Libya and the US and Britain at the Commonwealth summit.

Gaddafi reaffirmed in a 40-minute speech to banquet guests who waited more than four hours for their dinner that Libya would never surrender the Lockerbie suspects, who are under house arrest in their home country, to Britain or the US for trial.

He said that while the UN sanctions are hurting his country and his people, "they can never impose surrender. They can never make us capitulate".

Libyan Foreign Minister Omar Muntsser told Reuters that though many African leaders had visited Tripoli over the past five years, Mandela was Gaddafi's most significant guest since the imposition of the UN air travel embargo in 1992.

"Mandela is one of the leaders of Africa and his coming here is, for us, just another support for the African position and our problem with the West. He is a man respected by all the world," he said.

He endorsed the sentiment of a banner hung over the road Mandela travelled saying: "Mandela's visit to Libya is a devastating blow to America. President Mandela's action is a welcome defiance of one great power trying to impose a unilateral position on the rest of the world."

Muntsser said he hopes Mandela's visit would help to normalize Libya's relations with the US and other countries, but said he fears that Washington is using the dispute over the venue for the trial of two Libyan terrorism suspects as an excuse to isolate his country.

No Western leader has visited Tripoli since Gaddafi, arguing they would not be treated fairly, refused to deliver the two Lockerbie suspects for trial in the US or Britain.

The Libyan leader has offered to send them for trial in a neutral country, a proposal rejected by London and Washington.

The United States has branded Libya a terrorist state and, in line with its policy of discouraging trade or diplomatic relations, on Monday renewed its objection to Mandela's visit.

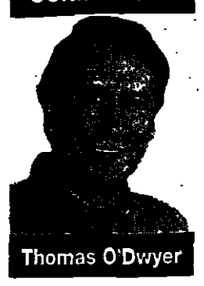
Mandela has visited Libya twice since his release from jail in 1990 but not since becoming president.



South African President Nelson Mandela (left) holds hands with his Libyan counterpart, Muammar Gaddafi, upon arrival in Tripoli Wednesday (AP)

The women fight for Ireland

Column One



Thomas O'Dwyer

It is always difficult to travel abroad when one's country is *run by a buffoon.*

At home one can berate the charlatan along with everyone else – overseas begins that terrible struggle between honesty and patriotism.

There's that smarmy face from back home once again in the newspaper, or on television. There goes the insincere smirk, explaining his way out of the latest scandal with what you just know is a pack of lies, blaming everyone but himself and the sycophantic clowns he chose to surround himself with. The media. The opposition. They did it.

He rambles on with mock sincerity about pursuing a peace process everyone knows he's trying to torpedo, while all the power of government is focused *only on keeping himself in* power. One's media colleagues turn around with knowing grins and say, "So, what do *you* think of that? Does he really expect people to take him seriously?" Sheepishly, one lamely begins to defend the country rather than the man ...

Ah yes! It wasn't easy being Irish abroad when Charles Haughey was prime minister in Dublin.

Thankfully we got rid of him and now he hits the news only for admitting involvement in some past funding scam which he indignantly denied at the time.

Shake-up

Haughey came unpleasantly back to mind on a recent trip to the Far East only because my foreign colleagues were blessedly more interested in Ireland's curious presidential election campaign, now in progress, than in quizzing me about the State of Israel.

It made me lamentably aware of how out of touch I had become with Irish affairs. On looking into it, I was intrigued to discover that a woman we dined with in Tel Aviv a few months ago is now in the race for the presidency of Ireland. Now try to guess which one.

This presidential election in Ireland (at the end of October) is extremely interesting and is shaking the country to its roots.

It is fascinating and potentially *very worrying for liberals* who have believed for years that the days of the ultra-right national-religious camp were gone for good.

It has been Ireland's second economic miracle and the long cozy presidency of Mary Robinson that may have lulled the country into a false sense of security in its modernism, ultra-Europeanism, cultural renaissance, and general self-satisfaction.

Sucking sound

No one put it better than columnist Fintan O'Toole in *The Irish Times*:

"When she left the presidency, Mary Robinson created not just a vacancy but a vacuum. A vacancy is a quiet, harmless absence ... And vacuums are dangerous and unstable. They *exert* an unpredictable force, sucking in strange pieces of the surrounding landscape."

Now, the presidency of Ireland is like the presidency of Israel – it is ceremonial and without power. But like Israel, Ireland has been blessed in filling this office with giants of the time who have brought the office a prestige and influence far beyond the constitutional provisions.

The most recent was Robinson, the first woman in the job, a surprising breath of modern fresh air who turned out to be a treasure not only in *Ireland, but on the international* stage. Now Ireland has to face the shock of her leaving and the political knives are out with a vengeance for this non-political office.

Four of the five candidates are women, all trying to be Mary Robinson Mark II and fooling nobody.

Wrong song

The Eurovision singer Dana (Rosemary Scallon) was treated as a joke showbiz candidate at first. But she has emerged as a front for the religious right wing, slipped in by a caucus of conservative municipal councillors. She brings a nasty whiff of whiny American right-wing religious fundamentalism to Ireland.

The solid European center is held by opposition Fine Gael party nominee Mary Banotti – a member of the European Parliament and the only candidate to have won an election fight – three of them in fact. A refreshingly sane and politically experienced idealist (not ideologue), she represents the Ireland most of us thought we belonged to – cultured, secular, social democratic, and, above all, modern European. She debates with the public on the Internet.

The ruling Fianna Fail Party astounded everyone by refusing to back its former leader and prime minister, Albert Reynolds, opting instead for a *law professor, Mary McAleese.* She quickly became front runner, but this week is fighting off a scandal over accusations (denied) that she is sweet on Sinn Fein, the political wing of the IRA.

The left-wing Labor Party chose aid worker and environmentalist Adi Roche.

A late entry – and the only man – former policeman Derek Nally is a charmer who hopes to route the ladies by sheer hard work. Not many experts give him a chance.

So did you guess which candidate was recently in Tel Aviv? Yes, it was of course the European modernist, Mary Banotti.

Greenpeace slams US global warming plan

WASHINGTON – President Bill Clinton pledged on Wednesday to "harness the power of the free market" for an assault on greenhouse gas pollution, outlining a package of incentives and modest targets he says will counter global warming while allowing businesses to prosper.

But Greenpeace called the proposals "totally unacceptable." "If it were adopted at the Kyoto conference on climate change, we would consider the agreement a failure," Kalee Kreider of Greenpeace said in a statement. "To respond with such complacency to climate change is to ignore the threat to human health and the environment." "We must begin now to take out our insurance policy on the future," Clinton told about 400 invited government officials and guests at the National Geographic Society's headquarters.

He said global warming "is real," and the "consequences, sooner or later, will be destructive for America and for the world."

Clinton outlined a strategy that beginning in 1988 would offer $5 billion in tax breaks and other incentives to US companies to encourage rapid improvements in fuel efficiency and spur the development of new "clean-energy" technologies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

But the specific goals and timetables he proposed for cutting international emissions fall far short of what some scientists and many environmentalists say are needed. They also are considerably less ambitious than the proposals proffered by other industrial powers.

The president's plan calls for stabilizing the industrialized world's output of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases at 1990 levels between 2008 and 2012 – followed by further, unspecified reductions by the year 2017. The European Union, by contrast, favors limiting emissions at 15 percent below 1990 levels by 2010.

Talks are under way this week in Bonn, Germany, to try to reach an agreement on an international plan to be signed in December in Kyoto, Japan. The treaty would set mandatory ceilings on emissions by nations around the world and impose penalties on countries that fail to comply.

Some business and labor groups say that even the relatively *modest restrictions sought by* Clinton would strangle the economic growth, raise energy prices and put millions of people out of work. But Clinton said his program would actually boost the economy by increasing efficiency and creating opportunities for new products and markets.

"If we do it right, protecting the climate will yield not costs, but profits, not burdens but benefits, not sacrifice, but a higher standard," he said.

White House officials portrayed the policy as "bold" and a "win-win," saying the tax breaks, flexible guidelines and other inducements would minimize the negative impact on industry and result in deep reductions in pollution before the mandatory limits even kick in.

(The Washington Post)

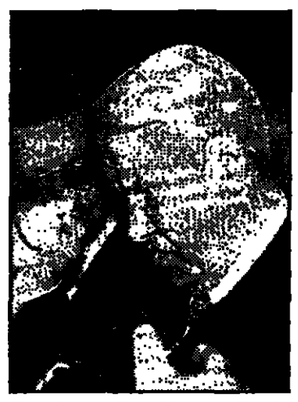
CIS summit brings harsh criticism; pledge to work harder

KISHINEV, Moldova (AP) – Leaders of former Soviet republics aimed harsh criticism at their own nebulous organization yesterday, blaming Russia most of all for the many shortcomings of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

"Serious criticism was addressed to Russia," President Boris Yeltsin said after meeting with leaders from the 11 other CIS members. They charged that "I, as chairman, and Russia as a whole are to blame that the CIS works irrationally and ineffectively." Yeltsin said the leaders made virtually no decisions at their meeting in the capital of tiny Moldova, instead handing all issues off to their prime ministers to work out and scheduling a new summit in exactly three months, on January 23.

The *sorry state of the alliance*, which has shown signs of coming apart at the seams, demands that its members take "serious measures so that the CIS not only survives and renews itself, but so that there can be no doubts about the existence of the CIS," Yeltsin said at a news conference.

Yeltsin began the summit by admitting that the alliance has largely failed and seeking to soothe what he said are fears among other member states that Moscow wants to use the organization to rebuild its empire.



Russian President Boris Yeltsin speaks to journalists at Kishinev's airport yesterday. In the background is Moldovan President Petru Lucinschi (AP)

According to a text of his speech, he said the lack of progress is caused by wariness of Russian-led efforts at closer integration and differing views of what the commonwealth should be and do.

The summit of the CIS, whose formation in 1991 sealed the collapse of the Soviet Union, came amid mounting criticism by its members.

Criticism has centered around the commonwealth's poor record in settling ethnic and regional disputes, its failure to improve economic ties and inability to fulfill the hundreds of agreements that have been signed by some or all of its members.

Yeltsin said the January summit will bring discussion of "a serious question of the reorganization of the work of the CIS." He added that no major changes will be made in the bureaucratic apparatus, but sternly warned that officials will be accountable for failure to implement decisions.

Moldovan President Petru Lucinschi said that the main aim of the summit will will be to reach complete agreement on free trade among members of the CIS, which includes all the former Soviet republics except the three Baltic states.

"We decided that at the extraordinary session we will take one question, and apparently that will be the free-trade regime, and work in such a way that all 12 will sign," He said. He said many of the "800 or 1,000" CIS agreements have not implemented because not all the members signed them.

Leaders of CIS members have stressed the need to improve economic ties among their countries whose economies were tightly interconnected in the Soviet Union. Some have blamed separate, Russian-led groupings within the CIS for sagging trade figures.

Date set for czar's funeral

By VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV

MOSCOW (AP) — After a long debate, the Russian government has finally set a date next spring for the burial of the remains of the last czar, Nicholas II, and his family, a newspaper said yesterday – but the place still has not been decided.

A government commission set the burial for March 1, a Russian Orthodox holiday called Forgiveness Sunday when believers repent for their sins, the business daily *Kommersant* reported, citing unidentified government officials.

According to the report, the government insists on burial in the Cathedral of St. Peter and Paul in St. Petersburg, where all Russian czars have been interred since Peter the Great.

But it has come under strong pressure from local officials in the Urals, who want the royal family to be buried in the city of Yekaterinburg, where they were slain by a Bolshevik firing squad in 1918.

Ginkgo extract shows benefit in slowing Alzheimer's

A popular herbal medicine derived from the leaves of ginkgo trees has a small but measurable effect on slowing the progression of Alzheimer's disease over the course of a year, according to the results of a new study.

The effect of the drug on Alzheimer's patients is more noticeable to family members than to doctors. Overall, it may delay a worsening of the disease by about six months. However, even the modest benefits were seen in only about one-third of patients.

"You need to be lucky to have this kind of improvement," said the study's lead researcher, Pierre L. Le Bars, of the New York Institute for Medical Research and New York University Medical Center's department of psychiatry.

"Although it has a reasonably modest effect, it could be meaningful to caregivers," said Marcelle Morrison-Bogorad, an Alzheimer's disease researcher at the National Institute on Aging at the National *Institutes of Health*, who was not involved in the study.

"To have a plateau for six months and be able to interact with the person when they're still at a relatively *early stage is something that many* families would appreciate, I think." Between 6 percent and 8 percent of Americans over the age of 65 have Alzheimer's disease. The ailment *begins with mild memory loss and* often progresses to agitation, confusion, and physical dependency in its advanced stages. The average length of time from the appearance of *symptoms to death is about eight* years. There are no good treatments for it.

Ginkgo extract is the single biggest selling botanical drug in the world. In France and Germany, more than 10 million prescriptions for ginkgo-derived drugs are written every year. The substance's popularity is rapidly growing in the United States, although *reliable estimates of* its use are not available.

Ginkgo extracts contain numerous chemical compounds whose biological properties fall into three main categories.

In the new study, published Wednesday in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 309 people were randomly assigned to receive either a ginkgo extract or a placebo for up to a year. The patients' average age was 69, and all had mild to moderate dementia caused either by Alzheimer's or, in about 30 percent of cases, multiple small strokes.

If a participant worsened dramatically, he or she could drop out of the study and switch to the herbal medicine if desired. On average, people assigned to the ginkgo extract stayed in the study 39 weeks, and people assigned to placebo stayed in 35 weeks.

The researchers used three yardsticks to periodically assess a patient's condition. One measured memory, language use, coordination, and other cognitive functions. The second asked caregivers to evaluate a person's social and personal behavior. In the third, doctors or other clinicians provided a "global impression" of how the patient's condition had changed over time.

In the cognitive test, people taking ginkgo on average showed no change over the course of the study, but those on placebo showed a slight decrease in score. In the caregivers' assessment, ginkgo users showed slight improvement, and placebo users slight decline, in functioning. Both groups showed slight worsening in the clinicians' assessment.

A cognitive improvement roughly equivalent to a delay of six months in Alzheimer's disease progression was seen in 26 percent of patients taking ginkgo, compared with 15 percent of patients taking placebo.

(The Washington Post)

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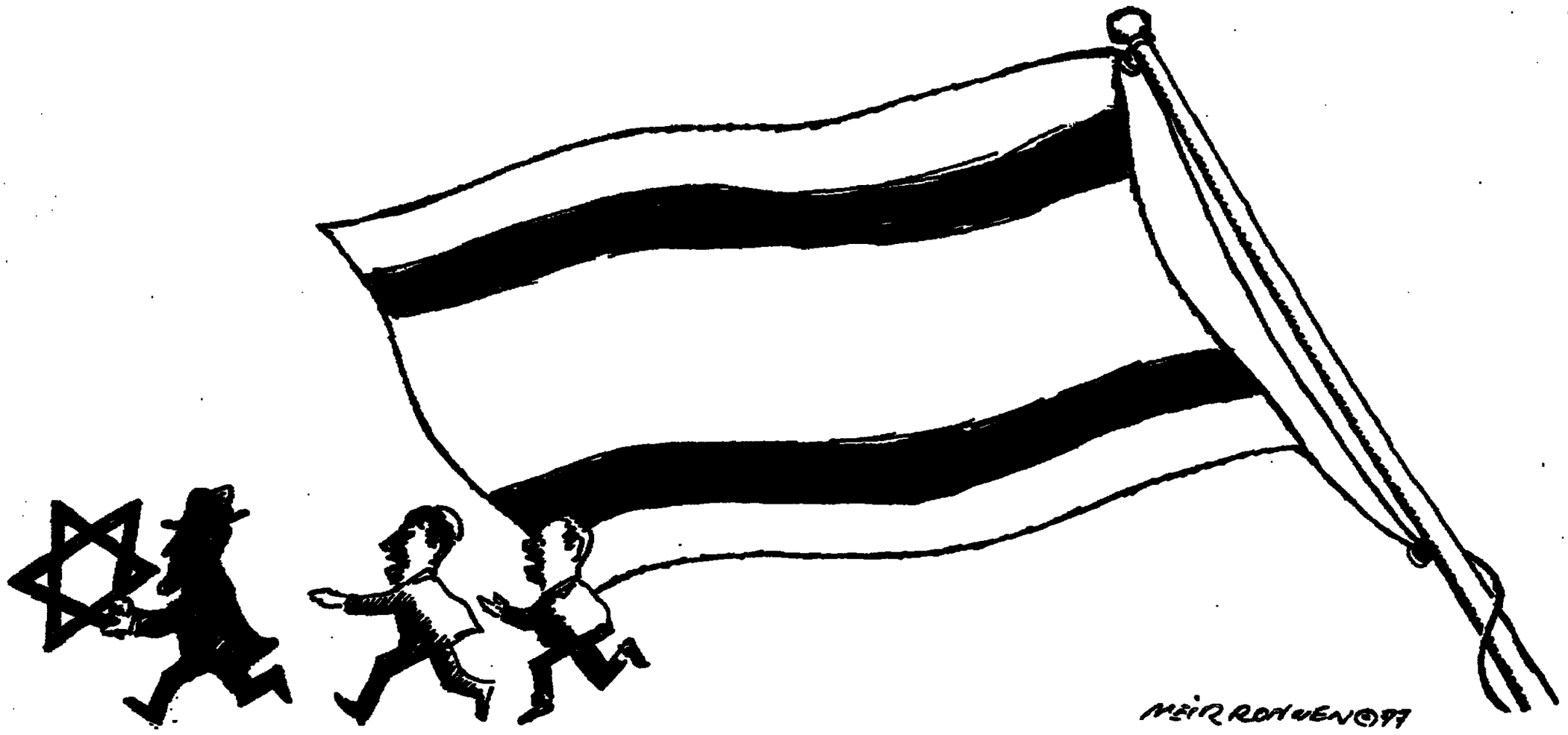


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The conversion bill showdown

Attempts to find a compromise on the conversion bill have so far been unsuccessful. Reform and Conservative leaders put the blame on the Orthodox for the lack of progress. Haim Shapiro reports

No responsible Jewish leader wants it to happen, but the anger abroad against Israel over the conversion issue could be expressed by Diaspora Jews through their pocketbooks and through a loss of political support for Israel, particularly in the US, says Rabbi Richard Hirsch, executive director of the World Union for Progressive Judaism.

That anger is likely to be vented at the General Assembly of the Council of Jewish Federations, which is to be held in Indianapolis next month. The federations are mainly led by members of Conservative and Reform congregations, who have been outspoken in their criticism of action which they see as delegitimizing their movements in Israel.

Prime Minister Netanyahu is likely to receive a less than warm reception, especially if the conversion bill and a planned law regarding religious councils are passed. The conversion bill would, in effect, deny recognition to conversions performed by Conservative and Reform rabbis in Israel. The religious council law would keep Conservative and Reform representatives out of the religious councils.

The committee headed by Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman has been trying to find a compromise to the conversion issue, but so far its proposed guidelines have been rejected by the Chief Rabbinate, which would have to be a key body in implementing them. Conservative and Reform leaders in Israel say that they will not wait any longer to go forward with their petitions to the High Court to force the Interior Ministry to register their converts as Jews, a move that would probably result in a hasty attempt to push through the conversion bill.

Netanyahu's adviser on Diaspora Jewry, Bobby Brown, said this week that Netanyahu is still planning to address the General Assembly as scheduled on November 16. In the past, Netanyahu has shied away from attending mass gatherings where he would have had to face a hostile non-Orthodox audience.

"He is saying he will go," Brown said, adding quickly that it was always possible that the prime minister might have to cancel his appearance because of some crisis.

Brown also insisted that it would be unwise for the Conservative and Reform to go ahead with their court action. All it would do, he warned, would be to hasten passage of the conversion bill. He said that the Neeman Committee was still the best vehicle with which to reach some sort of understanding.

"There are new directions and new proposals on how to make progress," Brown said.

However, Rabbi Ehud Bandel, president of the Conservative movement in Israel, said this week that so far he and his Reform colleagues have heard no new proposals. He saw no compromise in sight and no reason to delay the court action, which has already been postponed for several months.

"It is no accident that the issue of religion and state in Israel is of vast concern to diaspora Jews and of relatively little concern to secular Jews in Israel"

— Rabbi Richard Hirsch, executive director of the World Union for Progressive Judaism

Hirsch, who is a member of the executive of the World Zionist Organization, on the board of the Jewish Agency, and the immediate past president of the Zionist General Council, said that as the immediate result of the failure of the government to reach a compromise over the conversion issue, there could well be divergence between the government and the Jewish Agency, with the government supporting Orthodox institutions and the Jewish Agency supporting the Conservative and Reform.

"There could be a situation where the government goes in one direction and the Jewish Agency goes in another," he said this week.

The government, he said, had been influenced by the religious parties far beyond what their proportional support warranted, giving in on political issues and providing economic support. The Diaspora, and particularly American Jewry, was concerned about the character of the State of Israel. It was no accident, he said, that the issue of religion and state in Israel was of vast concern to Diaspora Jews and of relatively little concern to secular Jews in Israel.

Hirsch noted the recent elections in the US for representatives to the World Zionist Organization, in which the Reform Zionist movement won 47 percent of the votes, while the Conservative Zionist movement gained 26%. That meant, he said, that three quarters of American Jewry identified with non-Orthodox religious movements.

Against this was the reaction last week of the chief rabbis and the religious parties, who rejected the proposed guidelines of the committee headed by Finance Minister Neeman over the conversion issue. The committee had worked toward a central conversion institute that would deal with candidates from all streams of Judaism, but with the actual conversion ceremony carried out by an Orthodox rabbinical court. It had also suggested that non-Orthodox rabbis be allowed to perform marriages, with two official "witnesses" representing the chief rabbinate.

Hirsch said the guidelines represented substantial compromises by the non-Orthodox. It was not easy for them, he said, to agree that their rabbis would not perform conversions in Israel or that marriages would have to take place in the presence of what amounted to official supervisors. However, he had seen no similar concessions by the Orthodox.

"I think it is a great tragedy that the Orthodox have not given an affirmative response to the general guidelines of the Neeman Committee," Hirsch said.

He greatly admired Neeman, he admitted, who understands the potential deleterious consequences of failing to come to some sort of solution to the problem. Unfortunately, he added, the Orthodox establishment leadership and the rabbinical establishment continue to condemn and make false accusations against the "two majority movements in Jewish life."

He added, "They have a narrow, exclusivist anachronistic view of world Jewry and of Judaism."

On the other hand, he said, world Jewry and the State of Israel had an inclusive view, one that had resulted in the Law of Return, giving automatic citizenship to anyone who had even one Jewish grandparent. This, in turn, had led to the immigration of some 150,000 people from the former Soviet Union who, according to the Yisrael Ba'aliya party, are not Jews.

The root of the problem, Hirsch said, lay in the fact that the Orthodox establishment, instead of welcoming these people and encouraging them to identify as Jews, had adopted a policy that kept them from becoming Jews unless they adopted the most stringent view of Judaism. If the Orthodox had seen this as a human problem, making the immigrants part of Jewish life in Israel, the problem would not have arisen, Hirsch insisted.

According to statistics released by the rabbinical establishment itself, fewer than 1,000 people were converted to Judaism last year, he noted.

The Orthodox establishment had rejected the Neeman Committee guidelines, he said, not because they cared about individuals but because they were concerned about retaining control of religious institutions in Israel, he charged.

"At issue is what is to be the Jewish character of the State of Israel. Is it to be a state of Jews, or is it to be a state of Orthodox monopolistic control over Judaism?" he said.

Meanwhile, despite the general mood of pessimism, the Reform and Conservative leaders say they are still committed to continuing their work within the Neeman Committee.

"The committee is continuing to work. We are still determined to reach a positive conclusion to the work of the committee," Bandel said.

Most American Jews: Simply indifferent to Israel

The impression one might get is that American Jews, angry and frustrated over the conversion legislation, are taking to the barricades. But it seems more likely that they are taking a hike.

The question of Jewish pluralism is widening the distance between Israeli and American Jews, while Judaism centers on the synagogue, the institution that the Reform and Conservative movements find under assault in the conversion controversies.

"If the synagogue is illegitimate, then you are thrown into utter confusion," said Rabbi Eric Yoffie, head of the Reform movement.

"We can't risk making people choose between the synagogue and the State of Israel," said Murray Laulicht, an Orthodox Jew who is president of the Metrowest Federation in New Jersey.

Left unsaid is that given such a choice, the synagogue will win.

Although measuring support for Israel is dicey, the available parameters indicate that American Jews are increasingly indifferent to Israel, however riled they may be by pluralism.

Like the recent election for American delegates to the World Zionist Congress, it offers the best democratic forum for American Jews to vent their outrage about Israeli politics, and the rabbis pounded the pulpit to get their contingent constituents out to vote.

But of an estimated six million Jews in the US, only 150,000 registered to vote and of those, only 111,000 cast ballots. The Reform and Conservative movements won some 79,000 votes, which gave them bragging rights as the representatives of American Jewry – at least those who could be mobilized.

In fact, though the Zionist Congress election was the most recent opportunity for Jews to demonstrate support for Israel, when it comes to public displays, there seems to be a general indifference to the whole issue of Israel.

Events ranging from New York's annual Salute to Israel parade to rallies for the Israeli MIAs depend on the Orthodox community – which comprises less than 10 percent of American Jews – to produce the bodies.

In New York, for instance, planners are hesitant about organizing community-wide celebrations for Israel's 50th anniversary, grimly wringing their hands in fear that there's no festive, supportive Jewish public to participate. And although the American Jewish fund-raisers still express support for Israel, their sentiments do not appear to be shared by the grass-roots leaders.

According to the preliminary results of a survey of the American Jewish communal leadership, conducted by the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs, support for Israel is receding among the leadership of synagogues, Jewish community centers, Jewish federations, Jewish agencies, Jewish community relations councils and Jewish educational institutions. The scope of these bodies is limited to domestic Jewish concerns.

Angry though the Reform and Conservative movements and rabbis may be, the Reform and Conservative movements don't appear to have much leverage. The issue, rather, is one demonstrating displeasure with Israel is to cut contributions. But the movements have been slashing, not encouraging, their members to contribute generously to their local federations. That exposes another indicator of the movements' weakness regarding Israel – they are unable – or unwilling – to raise substantial funds for their own institutions in Israel and are dependent on the Jewish Agency to support their programs there.

— Martin Peretz


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Barak's conversion dilemma

Labor Party chairman Ehud Barak must woo religious parties if he wants to be Israel's next prime minister. But can he afford to anger Jews abroad by backing demands to outlaw Reform and Conservative conversions? Dan Izenberg analyzes the party's position

Shas Party leader Aryeh Deri has thrown out some bait to snare a big fish – Labor Party chairman Ehud Barak. But based on conversations with Labor Party figures in the past few days, it looks like Barak – *with a little prodding from his friends* – is not going to bite.

During a meeting held in the succa of Shas spiritual mentor Rabbi Ovadia Yosef late last week, Deri told Barak that if he was sincere about wanting Labor to turn a new leaf in relations with the Sephardim and the Orthodox, he should back two bills being pushed by the religious parties.

The first aims to prevent Reform and Conservative rabbis in Israel from converting non-Jews. The second seeks to ban Reform and Conservative membership on religious councils.

"If Labor votes against us on these bills, the party can forget about forming a coalition with us – in this world, or in the world to come"

One senior Shas official reportedly put it this way: "If Labor votes against us on these bills, the party can forget about forming a coalition with us – in this world, or in the world to come."

Deri had good reason to believe that the threat would not fall on deaf ears, as Barak has made no secret that he wants to try and change Labor's political, social and religious alignments so he can win the next election.

His recent apology to Sephardic immigrants for their suffering as newcomers in the 1950s and 1960s was a first step in that direction. That move was soon followed by an announcement, in response to Deri's demands, that he intended to distance the party from Meretz.

At the time of his apology, many observers wrote that Barak would have to back his words with actions to lend them credibility. It seems that Deri hopes to call in his first markers over the conversion and religious council bills.

The latest crisis over the controversial legislation began less than two weeks ago with news that the two chief rabbis, Eliahu Bakshi-Doron and Yisrael Lau, and the three Orthodox Knesset factions – Shas, the United Torah Judaism Party and the National Religious Party – had rejected a compromise formula for allowing Reform- and Conservative-conducted conversion and Reform- and Conservative-officiated weddings.

The formula had been drawn up by a seven-man committee led by Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman. The committee was established last June to head off the threat of a rupture between Israel and non-Orthodox Jews abroad over the conversion bill. The committee agreed twice to extend the deadline for deliberations originally set for August 15. The latest expiration date is today.

The crisis has been heightened by the fact that the High Court of Justice was to hear a petition in the coming week by the Reform and Conservative movements, who want to see their representatives seated on religious councils in Jerusalem, Haifa, Tel Aviv and Kiryat Tivon.

Orthodox parties have already drafted a transitional bill freezing all appointments to the councils until they are reconstituted to exclude the non-Orthodox. The parties have also demanded immediate Knesset approval of both the conversion and transitional religious councils bill.

If ever Barak wanted to prove to the Orthodox parties that he was their friend, this would be a fine time. But Barak cannot afford to do it. In all fairness, he probably wouldn't like to meet their demands in this case. But he seems to be trying to adopt the most conciliatory and statesmanlike tone possible to keep alive hopes of a future political alliance with the haredim.

During his meeting with Yosef, Barak, the former commander-in-chief who wants to promote himself as the country's guarantor of security, explained that his stance on the status of the Reform and Conservative movements was anchored in his concern for a safe Israel.

"The overriding need is for a secure and strong Israel, and to achieve that, we need a united Jewish nation," he said, in a statement carefully crafted to accentuate the positive and eliminate the negative. "That can only be achieved by compromise."

When it comes to the conversion issue, Barak is not personally concerned about the details of a compromise. His only conditions are that a formula be acceptable to both sides, and that the feelings of Reform and Conservative communities in the Diaspora be taken into account.

"We cannot accept a situation which will create divisiveness and rift within the Jewish nation," he said.

With regard to the religious councils, Barak has made sure to stress that he favors a solution proposed by none other than Deri himself when he was interior minister – to eliminate the religious councils and transfer their responsibilities to the local councils, where most political and ideological streams tend to be represented.

In the immediate future, the only apparent way to achieve a compromise that would grant some recognition to the Reform and Conservative movements in the conversion process and restructure the provision of religious services, is to continue the discussions.

"We must continue the cease-fire," said Yaron Jacobs, Barak's adviser on religious affairs, referring to an agreement reached back in June to refrain from taking any controversial steps on issues dividing the Orthodox and non-Orthodox movements.

Continuing the "cease-fire" means that the Reform and Conservative movements should postpone their petitions to the Supreme Court and give the Neeman Committee more time.

Jacobs said that the committee wasn't able to complete its work after a crisis that erupted after some of their ideas were leaked.

"We believe that it's possible to reach a compromise. Any decision that does not involve compromise is a bad decision," Jacobs said.

The difference between Barak and his colleagues is not so much in substance as in tone, yet it reveals a contrast in attitudes regarding hopes for a potential political alliance with the Orthodox.

"We must vote against both laws and we must say so in the clearest possible way," says MK Uzi Baram, who has just returned from a trip to the United States where he saw first-hand, the anger in the Reform and Conservative communities over the proposed legislation.

"Barak wants to gain time in order to forge a compromise. My position is that even if we want a compromise – which I don't – we should start out by presenting our ultimate demands."

Baram said he did not believe there was any hope of attracting Orthodox voters to Labor with or without supporting these bills. "They are devoted to the Likud," he said. "Barak is wrong. He doesn't know them," added MK Haggai Merom. "I am absolutely opposed to the conversion and religious councils bills and will do everything I can to see that the Labor Party does not support them.

"There is no other way of looking at the bills but as severing ourselves from Reform and Conservative Jewry abroad, which I regard as a catastrophe. The day that the Labor movement lends a hand to such legislation, it ceases to be a liberal, pluralist and Zionist party," Merom said. He understands the dilemma posed by Shas' threat but has no problem rejecting it.

"I don't believe that political self-interest should be the only consideration," he said. "There must be principles at the basis of any political move."

But even if political self interest were the determining factor, it would make no difference according to Merom, who regards Labor support for the Orthodox parties over this issue as "a momentary collaboration which will not endure."

Merom believes that Barak is trying to form some alliance with the Orthodox parties, but that he lacks the political strength to do so. "Barak will not go as far as he would like to," said Merom. "I believe the voices of those opposed to teaming up with the Orthodox against pluralism will be stronger. Anyone who wants to take that path will not be able to lead the Labor Party."

MK Ori Orr spoke out strongly for a compromise along the lines of the Neeman Committee. The compromise calls for halachic conversion based on the participation and cooperation of all three religious streams.



Israel Sun

Orr said that under no circumstances would Labor vote for a law that could alienate 75 percent of Jews abroad.

"Why should we be the ones to take Netanyahu's irons out of the fire," Orr said. "After all, we are in the opposition. It's the prime minister's problem. It might be a different matter if we were the government and on our way to a peace treaty with the Arabs when Shas threatened to topple us if we voted against the laws.

"But that is not the case," Orr continued. "Why do we have to help Netanyahu out?"

Even former Labor MK and Orthodox Rabbi Menachem Hacohen spoke out strongly against the conversion law and in favor of the Neeman compromise.

"The day that the Labor movement lends a hand to such legislation, it ceases to be a liberal, pluralist and Zionist party"

Hacohen, who retired from politics a decade ago but was asked to join a Labor committee appointed to draft policy over the two religious bills, said: "We must oppose them in the clearest possible way."

Hacohen, who supports halachic conversion, believes that the law proposed by the Orthodox parties is self-contradictory, since it could in fact be interpreted as recognizing conversion performed by Reform and Conservative rabbis abroad. "Conversion should be Orthodox, but the solution must not be politically imposed," Hacohen said.

Neeman's call for a form of conversion that would be overseen by all three religious streams is not new, Hacohen asserted. He said the idea was proposed 20 years ago and then rejected by the Orthodox at the last minute.

People who want to convert and then join the Reform stream should be encouraged to do so, Hacohen said. He also maintained that the "enormous" problem of intermarriage among diaspora Jews "was not caused by the Reform movement.

"Most of those who intermarry are completely cut off from Judaism. Those who want to convert indicate that they do care about Judaism. I don't want to alienate them," Hacohen added. "This issue is critical to the Jewish nation. It could create a deep fissure."

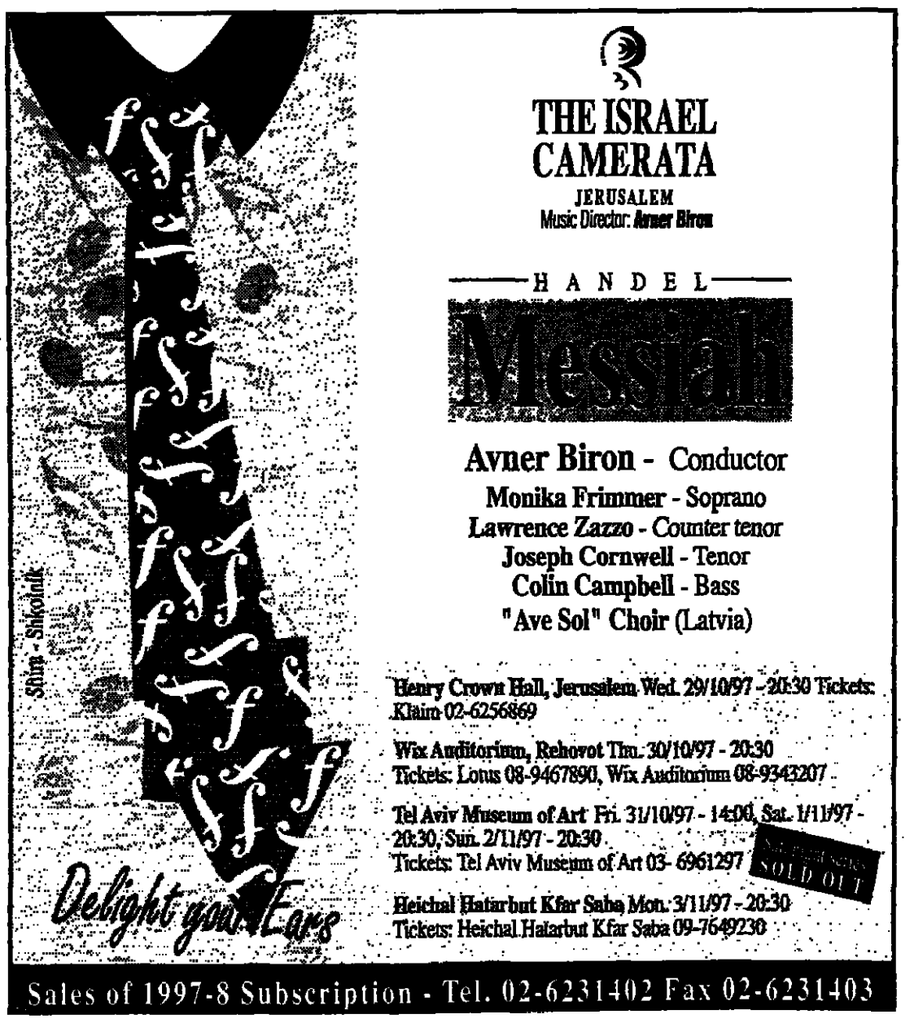
With regard to Barak, Hacohen said he believes that the party chairman "does not understand the religious and haredi population, just like Peres did not. Whoever understands the world view of the haredim knows that for them, a partnership with the Likud is always preferable."

Even before the two bills come to the Knesset – if they ever do – one thing is clear. However the issue of the status of the Reform and Conservative movements is resolved, it probably won't change the relationship between Labor and the Orthodox community.

Barak has made it clear that he is pinning hopes of winning the next election on getting more support from religious and Sephardic voters. Many in his party don't seem to think this is possible.



Gideon Markowicz



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Dancing on thin ice

An Israeli belly dancer's accusation of attempted rape against popular Egyptian ambassador Mohammed Bassiouny produced shock waves here and in Egypt. Michal Yudelman examines possible effects of the scandal on Egyptian-Israeli relations and the local diplomatic scene



Belly dancing is an art, and not an invitation to harassment. (The dancer shown here is not 'Alef.')

THE story has all the makings of a joint Arab-Israeli soap opera.

There's a foreign ambassador, a sex scandal, a glimpse into the world of Israel's social elite, hints of international intrigue and conspiracy.

At the heart of the matter is Egyptian Ambassador Mohammed Bassiouny, the most high-profile diplomat in Israel, who has been here for more than 17 years.

Bassiouny, who is extremely popular in high society circles, was accused of attempted rape by a belly dancer whose identity is protected behind the code name "Alef." Bassiouny countered with his own charge of attempted blackmail and hinted that the affair was part of a larger political conspiracy against him. Bassiouny was cleared of all charges last week, but the affair has left a cloud over the senior ambassador's diplomatic career and has aggravated the already strained relations between Israel and Egypt.

It all began two months ago when rumors circulated about an assignation between Bassiouny and a belly dancer in the Ramat Gan apartment of his friend, Doctor Yehoshafat Shulman, after which the dancer made allegations of attempted rape.

Police sought and won a court order banning publication of the story. That may have kept it out of the media, but under the surface it bounced in and out of the highest political windows, creating a fever of concern. President Weizman, Prime Minister Netanyahu and Foreign Minister Levy held consultations on how to handle the affair, and decided to gag it for fear of damaging relations with Egypt. It was also feared that the Egyptians would draw a connection between the Bassiouny affair and the recent conviction of Israeli Azzam Azzam in Egypt for espionage. It was assumed that this would heap more difficulties in the way of getting Azzam released.

Police officers discreetly investigated Alef's charge and questioned Bassiouny – who was legally shielded by diplomatic immunity. He admitted knowing the belly dancer but vehemently denied trying to force himself on her. But police also followed up a suspicion that the dancer and one of her friends might be trying to blackmail the ambassador.

The dancer claimed to police that Shulman had offered her several thousand dollars to keep the story to herself, and that Bassiouny's wife, Nagua, had also tried to buy her silence. Shulman denied this and Nagua said Alef tried to blackmail her.

About a month ago, Bassiouny complained publicly of harassment "by official Israeli elements." In an interview with Yediot Aharonot's Smadar Peri, he charged that his car had been searched, he was getting anonymous telephone calls in the middle of the night, and that a group of extreme right-wingers was demonstrating outside his residence with police permission. "My suitcases are packed. I'm ready to leave at any moment," he said.

Predictably, the story roused anger in Egypt, which officially had kept mum to that point. President Hosni Mubarak threatened that if the harassment did not cease, "we'll have to consider our options," Yediot Aharonot reported. The harassment against Bassiouny ceased and police detained Alef and one of her friends. They interrogated her for 10 hours on suspicion of trying to blackmail the ambassador.

Arbel said that even Alef's version of what happened indicated that no criminal offense was involved. She said the dancer had gone voluntarily to the tryst with Bassiouny in "sheer and skimpy" clothing and "knew what she was getting into." The comments sent shockwaves through women's organizations, legal circles, and the belly dancers' community. Professor Alice Shalvi, chairman of the Israel Women's Network, said "Arbel's statement implies that a woman who comes to somebody's home dressed in certain clothes should know what she's in for. I find that unacceptable. The tendency to blame the victim in cases of sexual assault is neither reasonable nor fair. It does not matter what a woman is wearing, if she says clearly that she is not interested in sex." The head of the Women's Network's legal team, attorney Rivka Meller-Olshitzky, regretted "that Arbel spoke in the stereotypical terms usually used by those who justify sexual aggression against women." Esther Eillam, an activist in the Rape Crisis Center, said it was the dancer's right to go wherever she wanted, wearing whatever she wanted, without being sexually molested. "This right is indivisible," asserted Eillam, author of Rape Survivors, Rape Crimes and the Authorities, published by the Jerusalem Institute for Israel Studies (1995).

"It's the attitude that what she was wearing had anything to do with it, and the implication that she brought it on herself, that's so infuriating," she said. "It's hard to believe that after everything we've done, after treating thousands of rape victims, there is still such a gap between all the information we've been spreading and the prevailing conceptions. Sexism is so deeply rooted that even women are not immune to it. It's no accident that the woman is the one sacrificed for the loftier interests of the state," Eillam commented. "I just wonder if the authorities would have treated the parties involved in the same way had Bassiouny been an ordinary citizen of no social or diplomatic status." Belly dancers were furious. "Belly dancing is an art and part of our culture," said Bracha Cohen, a belly dancer who has also been teaching it for 20 years. "It's no more provocative than ballet or jazz dancing, and the clothes are certainly no skimpier than in any other form of dance. When have you last seen a show of Bat Sheva? Have you seen what they're wearing?" But, she stressed, "That's not the point. The point is that even if a woman wears something which is perceived as provocative, it's no excuse to rape her." Cohen was especially incensed by Arbel's implication that because of her skimpy attire Alef had no case, and that this was part of the reason for closing it.

Realizing her error, Arbel hastened to issue a correction, saying her comment had been taken out of context. She stressed that "whether a woman wears revealing or other attire, I don't think it condones any kind of act against her." Arbel explained: "It's hard to get into details without violating privacy. We mentioned her clothing as one of the things to be taken into consideration. But I stressed we had determined there was no use of force or violence and no sexual contact. There was no rape or attempted rape. The complaint referred to indecent acts, but no such acts took place in the legal sense of the term. That's what I tried to explain. I didn't say a girl mustn't wear one kind of clothing or another."

The court order banning publication of the story kept it out of the media, but at the highest political level, it created a fever of concern. President Ezer Weizman, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Foreign Minister David Levy decided to gag the story for fear of damaging relations with Egypt



Will scandal spoil Bassiouny's career?

A former senior Israeli ambassador believes that the affair with the belly dancer will have an effect on Ambassador Bassiouny's diplomatic career. "This affair brings no honor either to Bassiouny or to Egypt, regardless of whether he is telling the truth or not," he said.

In the past, when an ambassador's position was compromised, the circumstances were entered in his personal record. Even if no immediate action was taken against him, a scandal would shorten the ambassador's term and in some cases delay or completely suspend his promotion and career, the former ambassador said.

He cited the case of an Israeli ambassador in Cyprus who was hauled out of a bar reeling drunk. "The ministry didn't recall him that very month, but it decided to bring him back as soon as the fuss died down," he recalled.

There is no doubt that under normal circumstances, an ambassador involved in possible scandal or alleged crime is called home to explain himself and after six months or so, his term is suddenly ended. At least that's how it's done in Israel, he said.

However, Bassiouny's case might be an exception due to the unusual state of affairs between Israel and Egypt, the former ambassador believes. In view of the distrust and tension between the two states, Bassiouny may manage to convince his ministry superiors that the affair is a slanderous conspiracy against him. This will still be difficult because he cannot deny being in that apartment with the dancer and would have to explain why, the former envoy said. It should be noted, he added, that the Egyptian Foreign Ministry is run extremely professionally and to exacting standards.

Apart from the effect of such an affair on the ambassador's career record, it will hinder his work. "His wife is involved in his activities, and this is bound to affect at least their professional partnership."

Romantic affairs and sex scandals involving diplomats are not uncommon, but ambassadors are trained to beware of what was known in Cold War days as the "honey trap" – falling for an attractive local person who was probably a planted agent. Bassiouny, as an experienced career diplomat and former intelligence officer, should have known better. Hence there is no excuse for what Bassiouny got involved in. the former envoy said.

– *M.Y.*

A diplomat's paradise

Israel is regarded as a diplomat's paradise and many ambassadors have asked to extend their term here or to be reassigned to Israel, a second time. Foreign diplomats on arrival are immediately embraced by Israel's high society. They become celebrities and are included on every Who's Who guest list for a never-ending run of parties, gala opening nights, receptions and dinners.

The Bassiounys, both outgoing bon vivants and diplomats of the first major Arab state to recognize Israel, have taken to the local social frenzy like ducks to water. From the start, the couple has been among the most courted and popular diplomats here, hosting balls and major media-covered social events for 17 years. The Bassiounys' sources command the attendance of anybody who's anybody in Israeli society, from President Ezer and Reuma Weizman, to ministers and Knesset members to the movers and shakers of business, culture and media. They all just had to be at the Bassiounys' lavish banquets, which gained the reputation as affairs out of *The Arabian Nights*, not just for the sumptuous spread of Egyptian and Middle Eastern delicacies, but for the entertainment as well. These parties usually culminated with a thrilling performance by an exotic belly dancer. It was at one of his own parties that Bassiouny met Alef, the belly dancer. – *M. Y.*

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MIDDLE ISRAEL

The new 'gaons'



By AMOTZ ASA-EL

Having delivered, in 1726, a complex Talmudic sermon in a synagogue packed with vintage Litvak scholars, the six-year-old Elijah of Vilna immediately became a myth.

During the rest of his 77 years, the monumental prodigy is said to have been so dedicated to religious study that he rarely slept more than a total of two hours a day, forcing himself to stay awake in Lithuania's biting winter nights by dipping his toes in tubs of cold water. In the daytime he would shutter the windows around him and study by candlelight, so as to avoid the outside world's distracting hustle and bustle. To keep his mind working even while in the bathroom – where one is forbidden to study Torah – he used that part of his carefully planned day to explore such secular subjects as algebra, astronomy, and geography.

The results of all that supreme intellectual effort were so potent that from his position in Vilnius – in between the great Jewish centers of Russia in the east and Poland in the west – Elijah established himself as his generation's superior Judaic authority, even though he never assumed public office nor donned any official title. His only title was the Gaon – the genius. And so it remains until today, an accomplishment achieved by no other exceptionally smart Jew, from Maimonides to Einstein.

Understandably, then, when a newly independent Lithuania recently marked, amid some pomp and circumstance, the Gaon's 200th *yahrzeit*, controversy focused on the post-communist republic's ulterior motives – considering its reluctance to boldly tackle its sinister Nazi-era record – rather than on its selection of the Gaon's *Lebenskraft* as a symbol of its glorious Jewish past.

And yet there is a strange discrepancy between the warm embrace of the Gaon by Gentiles and the conspicuous silence with which we Israelis treat his legacy.

Though this may have to do with our understandable fixation these days with the typically Israeli concoction of Mossad debacle, Lebanon quagmire and flash-floods disaster, it is also because the Gaon's memory has been tragically damaged by his own ill-conceived, ill-advised and ill-fated role in fomenting intra-Jewish strife.

Inspired by the Gaon's relentless pursuit of the Hassidic movement, 18th-century Vilnius anchored a culture war highlighted by synagogue closures, public book-burnings, and, ultimately, full excommunication of the rapidly growing movement's followers. To get a feel of how deep and cruel that schism was, one should read S.Y. Agnon's *Tehila*, which tells the story of a 90-year-old Jerusalem spinster whose memories are dominated by the cancellation of her planned wedding nearly eight decades earlier, after her family learned of the groom's Hassidism.

Surely, the Gaon's hot pursuit was not shorn of its theological rationale. Unlike the type of intellectually driven leadership which he embodied, Hassidism offered a charismatic alternative whereby rabbis purported to perform miracles, encouraged self-expression through ecstatic singing and dancing, and offered a quasi-Catholic mortal intermediary between man and God. Having burgeoned a century after the traumatic conversion to Islam of Shabbetai Zevi – the false Messiah who swept a generation of rabbis off its feet – there was even more reason to regard the Hassidic movement as an ominous threat to rabbinical authority.

Even so, with the benefit of hindsight, we now know that the Gaon's war, from his own viewpoint, was misguided. If anything, he should have lifted his eyes westwards, to Paris, where the French Revolution's leaders were busy emancipating the Jews, and to Berlin, where Moses Mendelssohn was translating the Bible into a Hebrew-transliterated German, thus building the other end of a Jewish-Gentile bridge which eventually would pose the truly potent, long-term threat to the Gaon's brand of Judaism.

The Hassidim, meanwhile, not only posed no threat to Judaism, but they upheld it in times and places where it might otherwise have vanished.

Besides being unjustified, the Gaon's war was also unwise. It ignored the malaise of masses of persecuted, downtrodden and undereducated Jews who could scarcely relate to the rabbis' Talmudic hair-splitting, much less find in it solace for the gloomy lives they were leading.

One can say many things about Hassidism, but no one can deny that it struck a dormant chord, catered to a popular need, and reached out in a manner that its detractors – the *mitnagdim* – could never emulate. The Gaon, ever besieged behind his shuttered Vilnius study's walls, apparently failed not only to cater to, but even to detect, the needs of simple Jews in far-flung domains.

NOW THAT same wrath of the underinformed and overconfident is evident in the attitudes of such would-be gaons as NRP and Shas rabbis Avraham Shapira and David Yosef, who said non-Orthodoxy "has nothing to do with Judaism."

Yosef has no more than a nodding acquaintance with American Jewry and has yet to sift through the writings of such non-Orthodox rabbinical luminaries as Solomon Schechter, Abraham Joshua Heschel and Mordecai Kaplan, all of whom could have taught him a thing or two about the very Judaism he so brazenly seeks to monopolize.

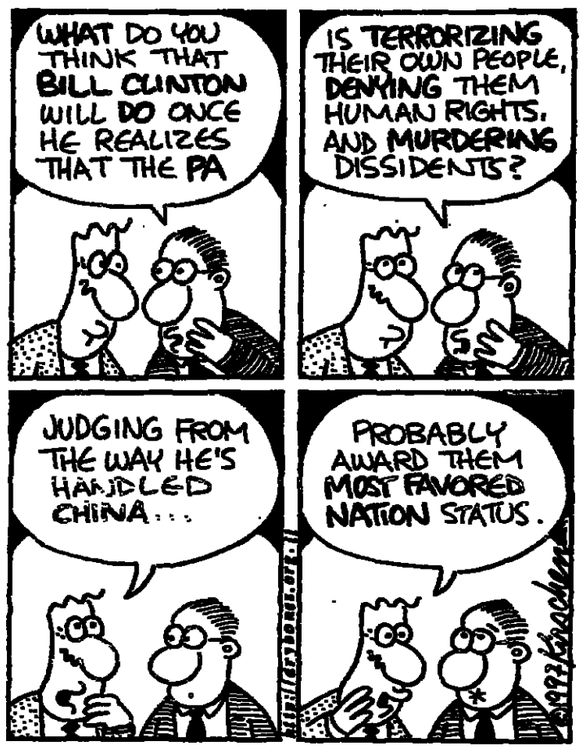
As for Shapira, his failure to become a public figure even during a decade-long tenure as chief rabbi speaks volumes for his inability – just like the *mitnagdim* in their time – to connect with the broad public outside his immediate pale.

That predominantly secular public, for its part, has been languishing for half a century in a spiritual vacuum which a well-organized and lavishly pampered Israeli Orthodoxy has failed to fill.

Non-Orthodoxy may stand little more than a slim chance of filling that gap, but it deserves its chance to offer a bridge of its own between secular Israel and its Judaic heritage.

Besides, stopping religious innovators in their tracks by diverting a legitimate theological debate with them into the dark alleys of unfair fighting will not work. Even the Gaon failed at it.

Dry Bones



A VIEW FROM NOV

The elephant and the 'occupation' problem



By MOSHE KOHN

Objectivity is the ability to "express or deal with facts or conditions as perceived without distortion by personal feelings, prejudices, or interpretations" (*Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*, 10th Edition).

Note the crucial qualifying clause in this definition, "as perceived."

A person observing an event from one part of the arena or the street is likely to see something not perceptible by someone seeing the same event from a different part. And people of different socio-cultural and educational backgrounds are likely to hear, perceive and report the same events differently.

This limitation is illustrated by the Hindu fable of the six blind men describing an elephant in terms of the respective section of the beast each was feeling. As related in the poetic version of John Godfrey Saxe, one of the men lands by the elephant's side and declares the beast to be "very like a wall!" The second feels the tusk, and perceives "This wonder of an elephant" to be "very like a spear!" The third takes "The squirming trunk within his hands, and declares the elephant to be "very like a snake!" The fourth feels the area of the knee and announces, "'Tis clear enough the Elephant / Is very like a tree." The fifth, touching the ear, pronounces "This marvel of an elephant" to be "very like a fan!" The sixth, landing by the tail, says the elephant "Is very like a rope."

The men then get into a heated argument over their respective perceptions, "Each in his own opinion / Exceeding stiff and strong, / Though each was partly in the right, / And all were in the wrong!" (*Poetry Festival*, edited by John Bettenbender, N.Y., Dell, 1966).

Nevertheless, there is always what George Orwell has called unchallengeable "neutral fact." He wrote:

"In the past people deliberately lied, or they unconsciously colored what they wrote, or they struggled after the truth, well knowing that they must make many mistakes; but in each case they believed that 'the facts' existed and were more or less discoverable.... If you look up the history of [World War I] in...the Encyclopaedia Britannica, you will find that a respectable amount of the material is drawn from German sources. A British and a German historian would disagree deeply on many things, even on fundamentals, but there would still be that body of, as it were, neutral fact on which neither would seriously challenge the other" (*Collected Essays, Journalism and Letters, Volume 2, My Country Right or Left 1940-1943*, Penguin, 1970, page 296. Thanks to Ralph Katzenell of Binyamina).

ONE HUGE problem in the bloody, eight-decade-old Arab-Jewish conflict in Eretz Yisrael is that for the Arab leaders and spokespersons and their non-Arab collaborators and a growing number of their constituents, there has never been a neutral fact pertaining to the conflict on which they will agree with us or even with a disinterested observer. Some say it openly, others conceal it in a labyrinth of euphemisms or just meaningless, evasive words.

Among the former is one of Islam's leading authorities, Muhammad Sayyed al-Tantawi, chief sheikh of Cairo's Al-Azhar Mosque.

Islam, like Judaism, ranks suicide as a sin. However, Tantawi has ruled that a Moslem who serves as a human bomb in order to take Jewish lives along with his own – or the lives of anyone declared to be an enemy – is not a sinful suicide, but a noble *shahid*/martyr, a "holy witness" to the justice of the Arab/Moslem cause.

Addressing an assembly of students at the University of Alexandria recently, he noted that Islam, like the other monotheistic religions, forbids the murder of children and old or helpless people. However, Jews are "attackers," and therefore not entitled to exemption as "aged, child or woman." And the *shahid* who takes Jewish lives is considered to have acted in self-defense.

In sum, "Since the Jews cause us evil, we must fight them courageously." And "The youth of the Islamic resistance who blow themselves up in order to cause casualties are considered the greatest of those who die, because they die as martyrs."

A group of Israeli rabbis has several times this year called on Tantawi and other Moslem prelates to urge their junior colleagues to preach against the attacks in Israel's civilian centers, and to halt the inflammatory anti-Israel, anti-Jewish rhetoric. He responded: "When the land is taken by force and oppression prevails, anger prevails and attacks occur in self-defense. When Jewish religious figures incite to oppression, should I stand silent?"

He might have been asked a few questions for clarification; perhaps someone will ask him now: In what circumstances was that land "taken by force"? Who was the original "self-defender," and still is, in the Arab-Jewish conflict? Can he name any of his Jewish counterparts – all the generations of our chief rabbis – who "incite to oppression," indeed to murder, the way he and other leading Moslem Arab clerics do?

It would be interesting to see to what extent his replies jibe with neutral fact and to what extent they are ideological figments born of blind, demonologically based hatred.

(The Tantawi citations were collated by the Foreign Ministry.)

OUR SO-CALLED Peace Camp, has defined "the occupation" as embracing Judea, Samaria, and (its more radical wing) eastern Jerusalem and all of the Golan Heights. Hence, our moderate peaceniks are prepared, in exchange for peace, to "give back everything – except Jerusalem, of course," and perhaps also a specified section of the Golan.

The Arafatians, however, have not yet unequivocally renounced their Palestine-liberation intentions, and have not dissociated themselves from their Hamas kissing partners' broader definition of "occupation."

"The 'occupation'...means the occupation of all of Palestine...my country," Abdel Aziz Rantisi, the Gaza Hamas leader, said in his own name and that of Sheikh Ahmed Yassin. He was interviewed in English by Dr. Aaron Lerner, codirector of IMRA/Independent Media & Review and Analysis.

Are the true, neutral facts significant at all to the likes of Rantisi, or, for that matter, of the Arafatians?

As for Sheikh Yassin, with whom some of our rabbis wish to form a "religious front" to fight materialism, permissiveness, etc. – he maintains that "Within a few years there will be no more State of Israel, so there is no point in entering into negotiations with her" (*Yediot Aharonot*, October 12).

E-mail comments to: moshe@jpost.co.il. Please include home address.

SHABBAT SHALOM

'In the beginning...'

Breshit



By SHLOMO RISKIN

"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth."
(Gen. 1:1)

Undoubtedly, Judaism believes in one deity who cannot be grasped by human intellect. Nevertheless, God does reveal different aspects of His ineffable being to His human creations, and these must be understood and even acted upon.

These practical but important facets of the Divine essence are expressed by the different names used to designate the Almighty. Rashi was very much aware of this descriptive function of the names, which he comments on in his opening commentary on the verse, "In the beginning God [*Elokim*] created the heaven and the earth."

Rashi writes: "It does not state Lord [JHWH, the four-letter name] because at first God (Elohim, Judge) intended to create [the world] with the attribute of strict justice. However, the Almighty realized that the world could not endure in such a mode, and therefore gave precedence to Divine mercy (*rachamim*), uniting it with Divine justice. That is why we find one chapter later: 'And these are the generations of the heaven and of the earth when they were created, in the day that the Lord God [*HaShem Elokim*] made the earth and the heavens.'" (Gen. 2:4)

What does Rashi mean? Why couldn't the world endure under the rule of Divine justice?

A world run in accordance with Divine justice would mean that as soon as someone does wrong, punishment is meted out. We would never have to ask why bad things happen to good people because an evil act would be stopped in its tracks; after all, an innocent person's suffering would violate the principle of Divine justice. The Nazi's hand would wither in the process of lifting the knife to hurt a hair on the head of a Jewish baby, the individual's voice would be silenced before he even was able to articulate the slander he had planned. What kind of world would this be? If evil could not exist because of the all-embracing power of Divine justice, how would the human be different from a laboratory rat being conditioned to move through a tunnel?

Simply stated, the human being, a creature who makes choices either learns from his mistakes or is "doomed to repeat them," either succumbing or not succumbing to temptation.

Man could not exist as anything more than a pawn if Divine justice ruled the world. There would be no room for the wavering personality torn between two equally compelling choices.

For the world to exist while containing human beings able to choose between wielding a murderer's knife or a physician's scalpel, God must refrain from immediate punishment; compassion must be joined with justice so that the Almighty will grant an opportunity to those who have fallen to rise again.

The price we must pay for this Divine compassion and freedom of choice is the phenomenon of the innocent suffering in a world which is often unfair. God's only guarantee in the Bible is that the Jews will never be destroyed, and will ultimately redeem this world, and the Sages add that all the righteous will ultimately be rewarded in the world to come (B.T.Yoma 68b).

In accordance with this theology, a hassidic teaching provides an alternative way of reading the first three words in the Torah, which says the words can also be understood as; "God created *beginning*," i.e., new beginnings, start-overs, renewed opportunities.

Anyone who has attended second or third marriages between widowed and/or divorced people understand the significance of the opportunity provided by "another chance." Free will, the making of our own choices, implies that sometimes mistakes will be made. But instead of Divine Justice descending like a bolt of lightning, Divine Mercy emerges to absorb the lethal charge.

This means we always have another chance to better ourselves. And isn't this after all what "beginnings" are all about? True repentance means carving out a new beginning for oneself.

Beginnings, therefore, go hand in hand with Divine Mercy, and Divine Faith in the human personality to recreate him/herself and forge a new destiny.

In fact, if we forget for a moment the account of Adam and Eve as an esoteric tale of good and evil, but instead concentrate on the basic outline of the story, we find a domestic tragedy (as pointed out by Elie Wiesel). A man and a woman had two sons. To their horror, one turned out to be a murderer, and the other son was murdered.

What happens to such parents? How do they go on with their lives? Clearly, they could be in mourning for the rest of their lives, brooding about the sheer waste of it all. But what do these first two parents do? They have a third son, Seth!

This idea fits well with Rabbi Joseph Soloveichik's understanding of Rashi's comment as to why the Torah begins with creation when it could have gone straight to the first commandment (Exodus 12:2).

The Rav answers Rashi by claiming that the opening phrase also reflects the most fundamental commandment in the Torah, the commandment of walking in the path of God: just as He creates, so are we commanded to create. And what is it that He created?

First and foremost He created a beginning, the opportunity to make another effort. Indeed, the mystical interpretation of the Bible suggests that God had created and destroyed many previous worlds before He created the present one.

Without the possibility of making our own choices – toward redemption or toward destruction, toward good or toward evil, toward life or toward death – the human is not the same human, and the world is not the same world. The glory of both God and humanity is to be found in the opening phrase of the Bible.

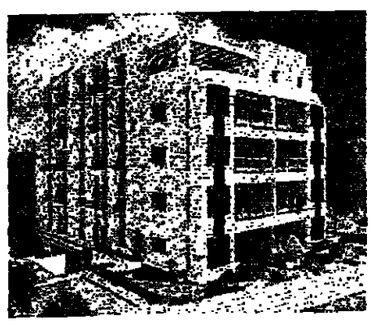
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War of the weapons

US and Israeli military industries play dirty in the battle to win Poland's weapon contracts, reports **Steve Rodan**

Managing America's foreign policy is a full-time job for Madeleine Albright. It includes trips around the world, meetings with visiting foreign dignitaries and emergency calls to hotspots such as Cyprus and the Israeli-Palestinian arena.

But in July, the US Secretary of State took time out for a little-publicized meeting with Polish leaders over a bitterly-fought tender for the upgrade of Polish military helicopters. Albright was rooting for a Western consortium headed by Boeing North American Inc. She told her Polish counterparts that she hoped the bidding was fair.

Boeing's competitor for the bid was an Israeli consortium, comprising Elbit Systems Ltd., Rafael Israel Armament Weapons Authority and El-Op Electro-Optics Industries.

Focusing on Poland's request for US aid and an invitation to joint NATO, Albright suggested she wanted something in return, in a message reminiscent of something she had told the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations several weeks earlier: "Our negotiators will seek trade agreements that help create new American jobs."

"And I will personally make the point to other governments that if their countries want to sell in our backyard, they had better allow America to do business in theirs," she added.

The secretary's words startled the Poles. They delayed a decision about the deal, but eventually stuck to their original intention. Last week, the outgoing Polish government announced it was awarding the contract to the Israelis. The deal, estimated to be worth at least $650 million, was to upgrade Poland's fleet of Huzar military helicopters.

The competition over the contract pointed to some new rules emerging in US relations with its allies. Despite the excellent state of US-Israeli ties, the nations have become fierce competitors in the defense marketplace. Some analysts predict that the rivalry will intensify.

"This is the second big contract that US defense companies lost to Israel," Reuven Pedatzur, director of the Galili Center for Strategy and National Security, says. "US defense executives are increasingly complaining that Washington gives Israel $3 billion a year and then Israel competes with them for contracts with American allies."



Will the Americans try to pressure Poland to cancel the huge helicopter contract it awarded Israel? (David Rubinger)

The US pressure on Poland to award the contract to Boeing never let up after Albright's visit. US officials repeatedly urged Warsaw not to forget that the Clinton administration was lobbying Congress for aid and trade credits. In September, British and US diplomats in Warsaw argued with Polish officials that they should choose a NATO supplier for a military upgrade that would meet alliance standards. That meant the Israeli bid would have to be rejected.

"The US pulled out all the stops," a defense executive involved in the deal says.

"The pressure on Poland was tremendous and the tactics used by the competitors did not observe any rules of fair play," Pedatzur says.

But the Poles held firm and granted Israel the entire contract, against all the predictions of Western and US diplomats.

According to the agreement signed by Defense Ministry director-general Ilan Biran and his Polish counterpart last week, the Israeli consortium will upgrade the Huzars and fit them with advanced anti-tank missiles. Boeing will not have any part in the project.

"The agreement is for the entire project and includes all the parameters," a defense official says. "From our point of view, the matter is concluded."

The saga began in 1994 when Poland decided to produce 40 combat helicopters a year, starting in 1999, and to upgrade the Polish-made Huzars.

Helicopter manufacturing had been Poland's field of expertise during the Warsaw Pact era. During the Cold War it provided more than 5,000 such aircraft to East Bloc nations. But Poland's financial woes later led Warsaw to abandon its own fleet and today only 30 MI-24 helicopters are considered operational.

After deciding to equip its Huzars with an advanced anti-tank missile, the Poles issued a tender and invited Western nations to participate.

Soon, two offers were under consideration, one from Rafael, which offered the NT-D missile. The other was from the French-German Euromissile company, which offered the OTS-3 air-to-ground anti-tank weapon system.

The NT-D soon became the darling of the Polish military. The missile was of the fire-and-forget type, allowing a helicopter to launch the projectile and then quickly get out of harm's way. The missile has a television camera that allows the helicopter crew to follow and ensure that it hit its target.

Rafael wasn't alone in the contract. Israel offered to upgrade the Huzar with advanced avionics and fire-control and targeting systems, that would be conducted by Elbit and El-Op.

Enter Rockwell International Corp. In early 1996, the US company decided to enter the bidding and offered its AGM-114 missile, called Hellfire. Unlike the NT-D, the Hellfire was proven in combat over the last 20 years and a staple of the Israeli Air Force.

Soon there were lobbies in Warsaw for both Rafael and Rockwell.

Rockwell supporters stressed that the Hellfire meets NATO standards. But Rafael enthusiasts in Poland argued that the NT-D was state-of-the-art and cheaper than Hellfire.

Defense executives recall the biggest difference was that Israel was willing to provide NT-D technology. The Pentagon would not do the same for the Hellfire.

By January 1997, the Poles were ready to decide. Polish Defense Minister Stanislaw Dobrzanski arrived in Israel and observed a test of the NT-D. He told *The Jerusalem Post* in an interview that the Rafael was the only offer being considered. But he added that the contract was being divided. One contract would go for the missile and the other for the upgrade of the Huzar.

Elbit, El-Op and Rockwell continued battling it out for the Huzar project. By this time, Rockwell was merging with Boeing.

The US lobby stepped up the pressure. Defense executives say that Boeing plants and potential subcontractors were getting in touch with Congressional representatives. The message was clear: If we lose the contract, that means a loss of jobs.

See WEAPONS, Page 27

SRULIK by DOSH



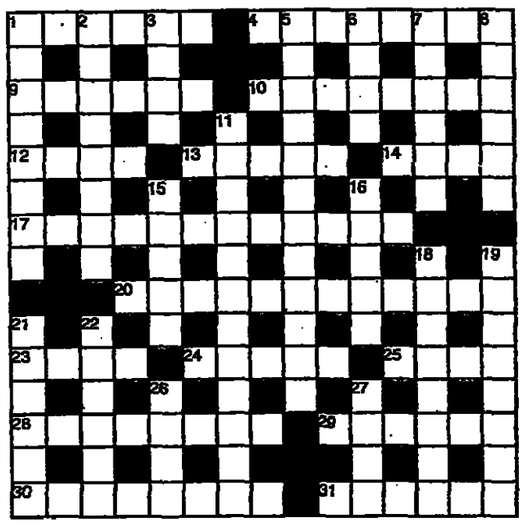
CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Gift of old money (6)
4 Brutish affected manners, say, of privateers (5)
9 Round the navy, tea is served in fancy style (6)
10 Smooth and cheerful on air-bed, perhaps (8)
12 Mail goes astray in capital (4)
13 Some prehistoric reptiles crawled on all fours (5)
14 Total power where oil is found (4)
17 Early carriage propelled by generator? (12)
20 Book showing currant-cake, one as set out (12)
23 Design of factory incomplete? (4)
24 Scope of morning-piece (5)
25 Creature dead, with nothing to follow? You can say that again! (4)
28 Noble trio of Beethoven (3)
29 Einstein, for example, using energy in formula (6)
30 List of terms giving polish to a line (8)
31 Test of gold leading to bargain? (6)

DOWN

1 English writer seen in baggage-point (8)
2 Nelson's column, for example, makes impression underground (8)
3 Sign register (4)
5 Potter's way of keeping advantage (12)
6 Backward-flying owls (4)
7 Such endless air-trouble he had, coming unstuck (6)
8 Thinly-spread butter for pickle (6)
11 Ringleader in remote Kabul, going around as a rabble-rouser (12)
15 Smell of a fishing-vessel (5)
16 This row goes on endlessly, we hear (5)
18 Poison derived from a protein (8)
19 Support for displaced Poles, going around America (8)
21 Bounded from singular accident? (6)
22 Argentinian suffering a cough (6)
26 Bad time for Caesar in squalid escapade (4)
27 Last in river? (4)



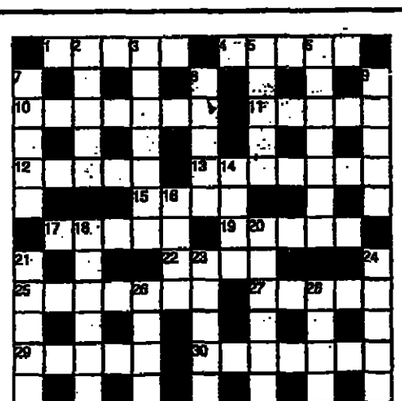
SOLUTIONS



Quick Solution

ACROSS: 1 Far-off, 4 Healed, 7 Desirable, 9 Dear, 10 Earl, 11 Shout, 13 Eaglet, 14 Prayer, 15 Torrid, 17 Smooth, 19 Aesop, 20 Pins, 23 Sash, 25 Schoolbag, 24 Garret, 26 Deluge. DOWN: 1 Fondle, 2 Over, 3 Fright, 4 Heat up, 5 Able, 6 Dealer, 7 Dangerous, 8 Easy-going, 11 Sepia, 12 Tramp, 15 Top dog, 16 Devout, 17 Soiled, 18 Hobbie, 21 Scar, 22 Sail.

QUICK CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1 Broadcast (5)
4 Glowed (5)
10 Rival (7)
11 Trench (5)
12 Slip-up (5)
13 Bodily signal (7)
15 Forearm bone (4)
17 French river (5)
19 Glib patter (5)
22 Declare (4)
25 Red pepper (7)
27 On a par (5)
29 Overturn (5)
30 Given in outline (7)
31 Two-wheeler (5)
32 Precipitous (5)

DOWN

2 Fit out (5)
3 Non-professional (7)
5 Underworld (5)
6 Japanese toggle (7)
7 Kingdom (5)
8 Pretend (5)
9 Leader (5)
14 Effortlessness (4)
16 Thin (4)
18 Greek epic (7)
20 Specious excuse (7)
21 Stunted vegetation (5)
23 Poetry (5)
24 Slaughters (5)
26 Of one's birth (5)
28 Pawnbroker (5)

L'expression personnelle



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GRAPEVINE By GREER FAY CASHMAN

Friends indeed

As miserly as he is with public funds, he's very generous with his own, said lawyer **Michael Fox**, chairman of the Israel Friends of Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz, speaking of his former partner Yaacov Neeman at the fifth annual Steinsaltz tribute dinner at the Sheraton Plaza, Jerusalem. Fox then went on to describe the liberal personal philanthropy of the finance minister. Neeman for his part, speaking on his own behalf and that of his wife, **Hadassah**, publicly thanked Fox and his wife, **Sheila**, for the unconditional friendship which they had demonstrated over the past 26 years. In an emotional address Neeman, in an oblique reference to the courtroom cloud which had threatened his reputation, repeatedly expressed appreciation to the Foxes for their support, their camaraderie, and their friendship during the most difficult of times. **Adin Steinsaltz** commented in response that it is customary to say good things (about other people) quietly and to vent anger aloud.

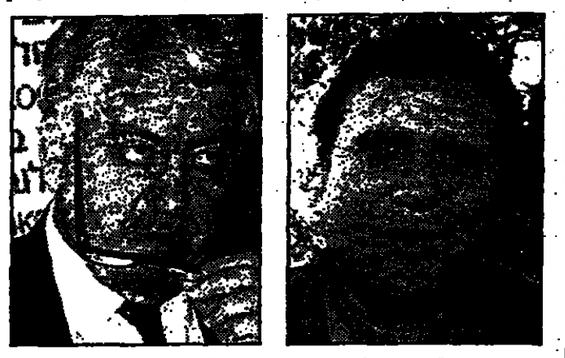
PRIOR to Neeman's unexpected outpouring, the largely religiously observant audience was pleasantly surprised by Defense Minister **Yitzhak Mordechai**, who in an off-the-cuff address, covered a wide range of religious topics and quoted many religious sources. Some cynics claimed that Mordechai had made an early election campaign start, but none could fault anything he'd said.

MANY a mother with a young marriageable daughter had her eye on **Jonathan Leibler**, the good-looking, personable, born-for-success youngest son of **Naomi** and **Isi Leibler** of Melbourne and Jerusalem. But the beautiful **Naomi Maurer**, daughter of **Cecile** and **Ari Maurer** formerly of Belgium and now of Jerusalem, captured his heart without any maternal intervention. The long arm of coincidence has delighted **Rachel Leibler**, grandmother of the prospective groom, who is also of Belgian background. She discovered that she and the Maurers have so many friends in common, they almost feel like old friends themselves. Relatives and friends of both families attended a reception this week hosted by the Leiblers to toast the happiness of the young couple.

IT'S A tradition with fund raiser par excellence **Raya Jaglom**, the honorary president of World WIZO, to return home after a protracted stay abroad with contributions for some of the many organizations and institutions with which she is associated. This homecoming was no exception. Jaglom, who has just spent three months with her husband, **Joseph** (he lives in Geneva), arrived in Israel last week with donations valued at around $300,000, to be disbursed to the WIZO Parents' Home, the Hebrew University, two homes for the blind, Shenkar College, and B'nai B'rith.

MAKING her acting debut on October 27 is **Sharon Shapiro**, who will play the part of the beautiful Helena in the bilingual production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* to be staged by The Sharon Players in conjunction with the Ra'anana Theater Group and the Ra'anana Youth Theater. The mother of six children aged 5 to 15, Shapiro, when asked by one of her brood to define her role, responded, "I'm a lover!" Not quite in character for a religious mom – but considering that it's only make-believe, it's an interesting diversion.

LABOR MK **Uzi Baram** is expected to announce next week whether or not he will run against incumbent **Ehud Olmert** in Jerusalem's mayoral election race. Baram has been quoted several times as saying that he would not run unless he stood a very good chance of winning. Now that Olmert has been acquitted of fraud charges, Baram's chances are somewhat slimmer. Labor, anticipating that Koor CEO **Benjamin Gaon** might find himself at leisure after the Claridge takeover of the conglomerate, had considered Gaon a likely candidate in the event that Baram might decline to run. But since fears for Gaon's job situation were unfounded, Labor may have to look elsewhere. Meanwhile Gaon's younger brother, **Yehoram Gaon**, who holds the city's arts and culture portfolio, has indicated that he will be running for mayor even though he is unlikely to win. It would have been interesting to see if he would have continued with that intention if big brother Benny were also in the race. Guess we won't find out this century.



Uzi Baram (left) and Yeroham Gaon: Up for the mayoral spot (Yisrael Hadari/ Efraim Kilshtok)

IT never hurts to have another profession to fall back on. New York actor **Mark Bellows**, who flew in for the holidays to spend some time in Jerusalem with his grandmother **Nina Bellows**, is also a practicing lawyer.

A handsome bachelor with a smile just made for toothpaste commercials, Bellows, who stars in the critically acclaimed new movie *Rapscallions*, was reluctant to say much about his acting career, explaining that it's a well-known fact in Hollywood and New York that any actor who shoots off his mouth about what he's done is usually out of work.

OCTOBER should be given the additional sobriquet of Peace Month. October 6 witnessed the commemoration of the assassination of Egyptian president Anwar Sadat, the first Arab leader to enter into a peace treaty with Israel. This week saw the official inauguration of the Peres Center for Peace. And later in the month *On the Brink of Peace*, a new television documentary examining the roller coaster history of the Middle East peace process, will premiere in New York. Written, directed and produced by **Alan Rosenthal**, a Hebrew University professor of communications, the production features former Israel foreign minister **Abba Eban** as host. This is the fifth film on which the two have collaborated. *On the Brink of Peace*, which was made for WNET Channel 13 in New York, will make its US Public Television debut on October 28.



Robin Williams gets into character for a more serious role. (U.P.P.A.)

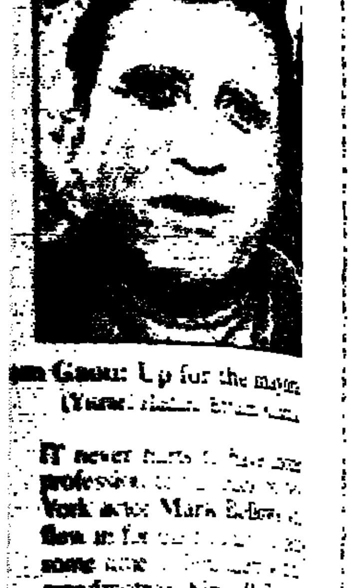
USUALLY frenetic funnyman **Robin Williams** was in Poland for a much more serious role in the Holocaust-based film *Jacob the Liar*, the story of how a Jew in the Lodz ghetto tried to save a young girl from the Nazis. Shooting on location in Lodz, Williams and other members of the cast discovered that despite the fact that antisemitism is outlawed under Poland's new constitution, it still exists. Scrawled across the wall of the Lodz synagogue was the crude message "Jews go back to Auschwitz." This may have inspired Williams and others on the set to attend Kol Nidrei services at the synagogue. Alternately, they may have done it anyway to get more into the mood of the movie. Then again, some of the people were Jewish and glad of the opportunity to be able to join some 30 regular congregants.

هكذا من الأصل

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

indeed

...ing. Now that Olmert has been acquitted of fraud charges, Barnea's chances are somewhat slimmer. Labor anticipates that Koor CEO Benjamin Gaon might find himself at loose after the Claridge takeover of the conglomerate, had considered Gaon a likely candidate in the event that Barnea might decide to run. But since fears for Gaon's job situation were unfounded, Labor may have to look elsewhere. Meanwhile Gaon's younger brother, Yehoram Gaon, who holds the city's arts and culture portfolio, has indicated that he will be running for mayor even though he is unlikely to win. It would have been interesting to see if he would have continued with that decision if big brother Benny was also in the race. Guess we won't find out this century.

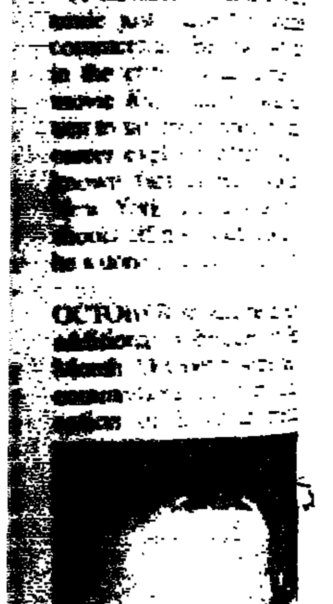


... Gaon: Up for the mayor...

IT never hurts to have ... professional ... York actor Mark ... flew in ... some ... grandmother Nina ... also a practical ...

A ...

OCTOBER ...



...

ISRAELI SHARES IN NEW YORK

AMEX

Am Israel Paper Mills	46.5	-0.875
Ampal American Israel	5.625	0
Etz Lavud	7.625	-0.125
Etz Lavud Cl A	6.5	+0
Integrated Technology	1.25	-0.0625
Carmel Containers Sys	9.125	-0.25

NASDAQ

Accent Software	3.0625	0
A.G. Associates	6.25	-0.09375
Aladdin	15.5625	-0.5625
Ampal	18.5	0
Aral	3.75	+0.375
Arzam	-	-
Better Online Solutions	5.625	-0.21875
Bio Technology General	13.125	-0.125
B.V.R. Technologies	11.625	+0.125
Checkpoint Software	40.5	-0.375
Cimatron	7.125	-0.5
Comverse Technology	50.25	-1.625
Crystal Systems Solutions	25.25	-0.625
Fourth Dimension Software	20.75	-0.875
D.S.P. Communications	20.9375	-1.6875
D.S.P.G. Group	34.25	-2.25
D.S.P.T. Tech	9.125	+0
Defense Software Systems	6.625	+0.0625
ECI Telecom	32.375	-0.625
Edusoft	7.0625	-0.4375
Electric Fuel	6.9375	-0.0625
Electronics for Imaging	52.25	-1.625
Elbit Computers	4.25	+0
Elron Electronics	16.75	-0.625
Elbit Medical Imaging	7.25	-0.25
E.S.C. Medical Systems	45.875	+1.375
Elbit Systems Ltd	13	-0.375
Eltek Circuit Boards	2.25	-0.25
Elbit Vision Systems	13.125	-0.5
M-Systems Flash Disk	5.8125	+0.0625
Gilat Satellite Networks	34.75	-0.5625
Genesis Bois	7.25	+0
Geoteck	3.78125	-0.1875
Healthcare Technologies	0.46875	0
Home Center	7.125	+0
I.C.T.S.	11.375	+1
Idan Software Industries	-	-
IIC Industries	43.875	0
I.I.S. Intelligent info	1.125	+0
Israel Land Develop - ADR	20	-0.78125
Indigo	6.375	-0.375
First Israel Fund	14.125	-0.75
Isramco	0.9375	-0.03125
Laser Technologies	21.625	+0.0625
Lan Optics	5.375	+0
Logal	1.9375	-0.25
Level Systems	20.5	+0
Madge	7.375	-0.125
Magal Security Systems	4.875	+0.375
Metav	19.25	+0.125
Medis El	6.25	-0.375
Memco	25.875	-0.625
Mercury	25	+1.5
Magic Software Enterprises	5.75	-0.5
Netmanage	4.3125	-0.21875
Nice Systems	49.25	-1.15625
Neuro-Medical Systems	5.0625	+0.0625
Nur Tecnology	1.5	+0
Opti Systems Solutions	5.375	+0
Orbotech	56.375	-1.625
Orckit	16.0625	-0.625
Oshap Technologies	10.25	-0.875
Pamrex	2.375	-0.0625
Rada Electronics Ind	2.125	-0.125
Arlely Advertising	2.875	+0
RIT Technologies	13.125	-0.875
Eshed Robotec (1982) Ltd	1.25	+0
Scitex Corporations	13	-0.6875
Silicom	5.75	-0.25
ISG Intl Software Group	16.0625	-0.6875
Summit Design	15.75	-0.375
Sapiens International	8.6875	-0.5
Scanvec	3	0
Taro Vit Ind	6	-0.125
Tat Technologies	0.96875	-0.0625
Technomatix Technologies	37.375	-1.625
Teva	50.125	-2.125
Top Image Systems	8.25	+0
Teledata Communications	39.25	-3.25
Tower Semiconductor	21.375	-0.5
Tadiran Telecomm	23.875	+0.875
TTI Team Telecom Intl Ltd	6.1875	-0.3125
TVG Technologies	1.1875	-0.03125
Vocaltec	29.75	-1.75
Wiz Tec Solutions	14.5	-0.625
Zag Industries Ltd	11	-0.25
Zoran Corporation	19.5	-0.5

NYSE

Blue Square	12.5625	-0.125
Elscint	7.5625	+0
PEC Israel Economic Corp	21.25	-0.25
Koor	23	-0.25
Simula Inc	16.9375	-1
Tadiran	41	-0.625

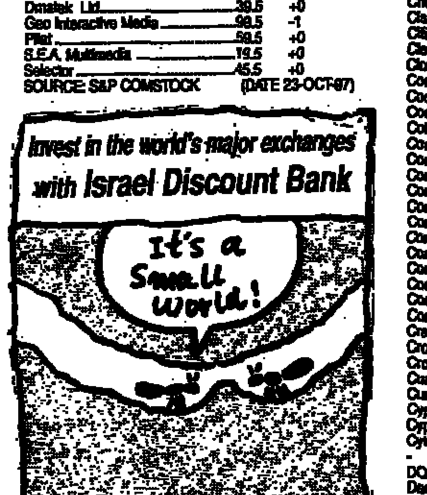
SOURCE: S&P COMSTOCK (DATE 23-OCT-97)

LONDON

Batm Advanced	130.5	+0
Dmatek Ltd	39.5	+0
Geo Interactive Media	99.5	-1
Pilat	59.5	+0
S.E.A. Multimedia	19.5	+0
Selector	45.5	+0

SOURCE: S&P COMSTOCK (DATE 23-OCT-97)

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ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

INTERNATIONAL SHARES

NEW YORK

Alza	27.25	-0.3125
AMP Inc	47.625	-3.25
AMR Corp	118.625	-3.9375
ASA	29.6875	-0.6875
Abbott Labs	61.75	-1.75
Advanced Micro	27.5	-0.875
Aetna Life	76.25	-0.5625
Affiliated Publ	18.125	0
Aflac	52.75	-1.5
Ahmanson (HF)	60.25	-0.9375
Air Prods	77.75	+0
Alberto-Culv B	30.25	-0.4375
Albertson's	37.375	-0.25
Alcan Aluminum	32.1875	-1
Alex & Alex	-	-
Allegheny Power	-	-
Allied Signal	39.375	-0.875
Alcoa	77.25	-3.5
Amax	36	-2
Amdahl Corp	-	-
Amerada Hess	62.25	-1.5625
Amer Brands	-	-
Amer El Power	47.6875	+0.0625
Amer Express	82.125	-1.3125
Amer Genl Corp	53.1875	-0.9375
Amer Greeting	37.375	-0.0625
Amer Home Pr	73.875	-0.9375
Amer Intl	106.688	-5.25
Amer Natl Ins	100.75	+0.75
Amer Power Conv	27.25	-0.4375
Amer Stores	25.0625	-0.125
Amer T & T	49.0625	-0.375
Ameritech	66.25	-0.25
Ametek Inc	23.5	-0.375
Amgen	48	+2.0625
Amoco	94.4375	-1.9375
Analog Devices	31.5625	-2
Anheuser-Busch	40.9375	-1.5625
Aon Corp	55.25	-0.8125
Apple Computer	17.75	-0.8125
Applied Magnetics	27.4375	-2
Applied Materials	37	-3.5
Archer Daniels	23.5625	-0.25
Armco	5.9375	+0
Armstrong World	68.3125	-1.125
Asarco	28.8125	-0.875
Ashland Coal	26.5625	+0.5
Ashland Oil	48.9375	-1.375
AST Research	-	-
Atlantic Richfld	82.125	-2.25
Auto Data Pro	51.3125	-1.625
Autodesk	44.375	-2.25
Avery Dennison	40.8125	+0.75
Avnet Inc	62.125	-0.9375
Avon Products	66.875	-3.8125
Balmco Corp	10	-0.625
Baker Hughes	46.75	-0.25
Ball Corp	35.3125	-0.5625
Baltimore Gas	27.4375	-0.625
Banc One Corp	52.5625	-0.8125
Bandag	52.25	-0.5625
BankAmerica	78.9375	-1.8125
Bank of Boston	86.4375	-0.9375
Bank of New Yk	49.25	-1
Bankers Trst NY	122.438	-3.3125
Barnett Banks	71.875	-0.4375
Battle Mount Gd	7	+0.1875
Bausch & Lomb	41.3125	-0.9375
Baxter Intl	52.5	-3.375
Bay Network	34.5	-1.5
Becton Dickinson	46.375	-1.6875
Bell Atlantic	83.4375	-0.6875
Bell Industries	17.75	-0.125
BellSouth	48.5	-0.25
HA Belo Corp	51	-0.3125
Beneficial Corp	79.5	-1.625
Bethlehem Steel	10.6875	-0.75
Beverly Entprs	16	-0.25
Biomet	22.8125	-0.75
Black & Decker	40.625	-0.5625
Boeing	49.25	-0.625
Boise Cascade	41.25	-1
Bowater Inc	49.75	-0.9375
Briggs & Strttn	50.25	-0.75
Brist Myrs Sqb	89.5	-0.6875
Brit Airws ADR	100.25	-3.25
Brit Steel ADR	28.125	-0.4375
Brit Telecom	77.8125	-0.875
Brown Group	15.1875	-0.1875
Brown & Sharpe	11.6875	-0.125
Browning Ferris	34.4375	-1.5625
Brunswick	34.375	+0.4375
Burlington Nthn	99.625	-1.3125
CBS Inc	-	-
CMS Energy Corp	36.875	-0.75
CPC Intern	100.875	-1.125
CSX Corporation	56.625	-1.1875
Cabot Corp	24.4375	-0.8125
Campbell Soup	54.0625	-0.8125
Capital Cts ABC	92	-1.25
Carolina Pwr Lt	35.375	-0.6875
Carpenter Tech	51.1875	-0.875
Caterpillar	59.125	-1
Centerior Energy	11.5	-0.1875
Cenex Corp	57.9375	+0
Central & SW	21.8125	-0.375
Ceridien	39.5	-0.5
Champion Intl	61.6875	-4
Chrmg Shoppes	5.3125	-0.1875
Chase Manhattan	122.625	-1.8125
Chevron Corp	83.5	-2.9375
Chiquita Brands	18.9375	-0.4375
Chrysler	36.25	-0.5625
Chubb Corp	68.5625	-1.1875
Cisco	81.5	-2.4375
Citicorp	136.75	-7.25
Clevld Cliffs	45.4375	-0.9375
Clorox	69	+0.1875
Coastal Corp	62.9375	-0.25
Coca Cola	57.6875	-1.625
Coca Cola Ent	29.9375	-0.6875
Colgate Palmolv	72.25	-1.6875
Comcast Corp A	29.1875	-0.3125
Compaq	71.8125	-2
Compute Ass Int	78.25	-2.5
Computer Sci	75.375	-1.8125
Conagra	32.75	-0.3125
Cons Edison	34.25	-0.5
Cons Freightways	48.125	-2.625
Cons Nat Gas	55.1875	-1.0625
Cons Rail	-	-
Cooper Inds	54.8125	-0.6875
Coors (Adolph)	33.6875	+0.5625
Corning Inc	47.5	-1.75
Crane	43.8125	-1.0625
Crompton Knowles	26.5	-0.1875
Crown Cork Seal	46.125	-0.375
Cummins Engine	64.0625	-2.3125
Curtiss-Wright	73.8125	-0.875
Cypress Semicon	11.4375	-0.6875
Cypress Mineral	22.875	-0.875
Cytec Indust	49.875	+0.125
DQE	31.5	-0.6875
Dana Corp	51.375	-0.75
Data General	24.4375	-1.4375
Dayton Hudson	60.25	-1
De Beers	27.125	-2.6875
Deere	56.0625	-1.875
Detm Pwr & L	19.0625	-0.3125
Dell Computers	85.8125	-3.3125
Delta Air Lines	105.875	+0.125
Deluxe Corp	32.9375	-0.6875
Detroit Edison	29.8125	-0.4375
Dial Corp Del	17.1875	-0.25
Diebold Inc	45.75	-1.0625
Digital Equip	50.8125	-1.125
Dillard Dep St	37.5	-0.9375
Disney (Walt)	82.3125	-0.75
Dominion Res	37.5625	-0.75
Donelley (RR)	34.75	-0.375
Dover Corp	71.0625	-1
Dow Chemicals	93.0625	-1.4375
Dow Jones	49.3125	-0.5625
Dresser	43.875	-0.125
DSC Comm	27.25	-0.375
Duke Power	48.3125	-1
Dun & Bradst	28.1875	-0.875
Du Pont	60.0625	+0.4375
E G & G Corp	21.25	-0.9375
Eastern Ents	38.875	-0.375
Eastman Kodak	61.3125	-0.6875
Eaton Corp	100.5	-2.25
Echlin Inc	34.1875	-0.6875
Emerson Elec	55.0625	-1.0625
Engelhard Corp	18.375	-0.5
Enron Corp	40.0625	-0.6875
Enserch Corp	-	-
Entergy Corp	26.5625	-0.1875
Enzo Biochem	18.625	-0.6875
Ericsson	47.5625	-1.75
Ethyl Corp	9.0625	-0.0625
Exxon	63.125	-1.75
Exxon	63.125	-1.75
FMC Corp	82.25	-2.5625
FPL Group	52	-0.25
Fedders Corp	6	-0.125
Federal Exprss	73.125	-2.3125
Federal Mogul	46.5	+0.25
Fed Nat Mtge	48	-0.375
Fieldcrest Can	33.6875	-0.3125
First Bank Sys	-	-
First Chicago	74.875	-1
First Union	50.25	-0.625
Fruit of the Loom	27.75	-1
Fst Union Rlty	15.25	-0.625
Fleet Finl Grp	67.4375	-0.375
Fleetwd Enterp	32	-0.3125
Fleming Cos Ok	18.5	-0.4375
Florida Prog	32.8125	-0.625
Fluor Corp	50.9375	-2
Food Lion Inc	8.03125	-0.03125
Ford Motor	46.8125	-0.875
Foster Wheeler	39.125	-2
Freeport McMor	10.375	-0.5625
Galoob Toys	14.6875	-0.5625
Gateway 2000	2.09375	+0.0625
GATX Corp	66.5	-0.5625
GTE Corp	45.375	-0.8125
Gannett	54	-0.75
Gap Inc Del	52.0625	-0.75
Gencorp	28	-0.5625
Gen Am Invest	26.875	-0.5
Gen Dynamics	82.3125	-0.6875
Gen Electric	67.375	-2.0625
Gen Mills	68.8125	-0.5
Gen Motors	70.25	-1.125
Gen Motors H	67.5625	-1.125
Gen Public Util	38.125	-0.375
Gen Reinsurnce	201.25	-4.25
Gen Signal	40.375	-0.9375
Gen DataComm	6.25	-0.25
Genuine Parts	32.5625	-0.125
Georgia Pac	99.75	-3.5
Gillette	91.625	-2.625
Glaxo ADR	41.75	-0.9375
Golden W Finl	90	-1.3125
Goodrich (BF)	45	-0.8125
Goodyear Tire	66.5	-0.75
Grace (W&R)	71.8125	-0.9375
Grainger (WW)	91.9375	+0.0625
Grt Atl Pac Tea	31	-0.875
Grt Central Mine	4.5	+0
Grt Western Finl	-	-
Halliburton	61.5	+2.75
Hanna (MA)	26.25	-0.125
Harcourt	52.0625	+0.0625
Harley Davidson	28.6875	-0.375
Harnischfeger	42.0625	-0.6875
Harrah's Ent	19.9375	-0.4375
Harris Corp	46.75	-1.625
Harsco Corp	44	-0.75
Hartmax	7.8125	-0.1875
Hasbro	26.625	-0.375
Hecla Mining	6.125	-0.0625
Heinz (HJ)	47.3125	-0.875
Helix Technol	53.75	-1.25
Harch & Payne	85.5625	-0.9375
Hercules	47.0625	-1
Hershey Foods	54.625	-0.125
Hewlett Packard	65.0625	-1.8125
Hilton Hotels	34.625	-0.75
Hirsch Int	18.875	-0.375
Hollinger	13.125	-0.3125
Home Depot	55	-1.0625
Homestake	14.625	+0.1875
Honeywell	73.75	-0.9375
Hormel (Geo)	29.625	-0.5625
Household Intl	116.688	+0.625
Houston Inds	22.375	-0.375
Humana	23.1875	-0.6875
IBM	100.25	-4.875
Illinova Corp	20.8125	-0.6875
Illinois Tool	50.625	-0.9375
INCO	23	-0.3125
Ingersoll Rand	44.125	-1
Inland Steel	19.875	-1.25
Intel Corp	81.875	-2.0625
Intergraph	12.6875	-0.1875
Interlake	6.5625	-0.25
Intl Fmly EntB	-	-
Intl Flav & Fr	49.4375	-0.6875
Intl Multifoods	29.25	-0.25
Intl Paper	55.625	-1.6875
Interpublic	48.375	-0.0625
ITT Corp	74.1875	-0.4375
James River Ba	-	-
Jefferson Plt	84.8125	-1.75
Johnson & J	58.5	-1.4375
K Mart	13.0625	-0.0625
Kaiser Alum	13.9375	-0.5625
Kellogg	43.5	-1.625
KLA Instruments	58.25	-3.9375
Kennametal	53.0625	-0.6875
Kerr-McGee	68.8125	-1.5
KeyCorp	64.6875	-0.75
Kimberly-Clark	51.5625	-0.1875
King World Prod	48.5625	-1.4375
Knight Ridder	55.75	-0.5
Kroger	32.375	-0.4375
LSI Logic	23.5	-0.4375
Legget & Platt	43.625	+0.25
Leucadia Natl	35.75	-0.0625
Lilly (Eli)	68.75	+1.0625
Limited Inc	22.9375	-0.1875
Linear Technol	63.375	-4.1875
Lincoln Nat	68.75	-0.9375
Litton	52.0625	-0.875
Liz Claiborne	51.6875	-0.8125
Lockheed Corp	98.625	-1.25
Loews Corp	112.125	-1.6875
Lone Star	58.8125	+0
Long Island Lt	25.5	-0.25
Longs Drug Strs	25.6875	-0.3125
Loral Corp	21.625	-0.375
Louisiana Land	79	0
Louisiana Pacif	23.9375	-0.875
Lowe's Co Inc	43.3125	-0.25
Lucent Tech	84	-2.0625
Lubrizol	41.875	-1.0625
Madge	7.375	-0.125
MCI Commun	37.6875	-0.8125
Mallinckrodt	38.25	-0.75
Manor Care	35.125	-0.1875
Mapco Inc	33.375	-1
Marriott	72.9375	-0.4375
Mrsh & McLn	74.75	-0.75
Marvel	1.9375	+0.0625
Masco Corp	45.375	-0.5625
Massmutual Corp	44	-0.1875
Mattel Inc	37.875	-0.9375
Maytag Corp	34.125	-0.125
McDermott	36.875	-1.625
McDonalds	47.25	-1.25
McGraw Hill	68	-1
McKesson Corp	108	-1.4375
Mead Corp	70.125	-2.125
Medtronic	47	-1.25
Mellon Bk	54	+0.75
Mentor Graphics	10.8125	-0.5625
Mercantile Strs	61	-0.3125
Merck Inc	94.5	-2.75
Meredith Corp	33.8125	-0.1875
Merrill Lynch	72.1875	-2.9375
Micron Technol	31.75	-0.875
Microsoft Corp	135.625	-0.0625
Millipore	41.4375	-2.1875
Mine Safety App	68.25	-2.125
Minnesota Mine	99.375	-1
Mitchell Energy	26.25	-1.4375
Mobil Corp	72.3125	-1.1875
Mobile Telecom	17.5625	-0.1875
Molex Inc	40.5	-1
Monarch Macht	9	0
Monsanto	44.5	-1.25
Morgan (JP)	118.25	-2.5625
Morningstar Grp	41.75	-1
Morton Intl	34.5	-0.25
Motorola Inc	65.375	-2.75
Murphy Oil	59.625	-1.0625
Nacco Inds	109.313	-4.0625
Nalco Chemical	41.25	-0.75
Nashua Corp	13.375	-0.25
NationsBank	61.875	-0.5625
Natl City Corp	62.0625	-1
Natl Semi	37.0625	-0.8125
Natl Serv Ind	45.875	-1.0625
NatWest Bank	94.375	-0.5
Navistar Int	22.75	-0.5
Netscape	34.875	-1.75
New England El	39	-0.5
News Corp	19.375	-0.375
NY State El Gas	27.25	-0.5
NY Times	55.0625	+0
Newmont Mining	44.9375	+0.9375
Niag Mohawk	9.5	+0
Nicor Inc	38.6875	-0.0625
Nike Inc	49	-0.0625
NL Industries	16.6875	+0.1875
Noble Affil	42.375	-0.5625
Nokia	95.625	-6.125
Nordstrom	59.5	-1
Norfolk Southrn	33.5	-0.625
Northeast Util	11.5	-0.1875
Novell	9.03125	-0.46875
Nthn State Pwr	50.0625	-0.5
Northrop	113.375	-2.25
Norwest Corp	32.75	-0.25
NSI	5.0625	+0.0625
Occidental Pet	29.0625	-0.375
Ogden Corp	25.6875	-0.8125
OEA	40.1875	-0.6875
Ohio Casualty	45.25	-1.125
Ohio Edison	23.1875	-0.3125
Olin Corp	43.9375	-1.625
Omnicom Group	70.0625	-1.875
Oneok Inc	33.625	-0.5
Oracle Systems	34.125	-0.9375
Onyx Energy Co	27.75	-1.0625
Oshkosh B'gosh	30.875	+0
Outboard Marine	-	-
Overseas Ship	23.5625	-0.625
Owens Corning	35.1875	-1.0625
PHH Group	-	-
PNC Financial	49.875	-0.4375
PPG Industries	60.0625	-1.5
Paccar Inc	52.1875	-0.9375
Pacificorp	21.6875	-0.0625
Pac Enterprises	33.875	-0.4375
Pac Gas & Elect	24.0625	+0.0625
Pac Telesis	-	-
Pall Corp	21.9375	-0.6875
Panh Eastern	-	-
Parker Drilling	16.125	+0.1875
Parker Hannifin	49.3125	-1.6875
Penney(JC)	55.875	-0.1875
Pennsyl Pwr Lt	21.3125	-0.5
Pennzoil	77.5625	-0.9375
People's Energy	36.625	-0.875
Pepsico	37.625	-0.8125
Perkin Elmer	68.3125	-0.875
Pfizer	71.5	-0.8125
Pharmacia & Upj	34	-0.5
Phelps Dodge	78.5	-0.75
Philadel Elec	23.3125	-0.3125
Philip Morris	41	-0.75
Philips Elec	81.25	-4.65625
Philips Pet	48.4375	-0.625
Pioneer Hi Bred	91.375	+0.25
Pitney Bowes	81.625	-0.75
Policy Mgt Sys	62.8125	+0.25
Polycom	6.25	-0.0625
Potash Corp	85.9375	-1.125
Potomac El Pwr	22.6875	-0.25
Procter & Gamble	70.75	-1.4375
Pub Svc Enterpr	25.875	-0.25
Pug Snd Pwr	26.5	-0.1875
Quaker Oats	47.6875	-0.25
Qualcom	61.375	-2
Quanex Corp	28.875	-0.125
RJR Nabisco	32.5	-0.625
Ralston Purina	92.5625	-0.3125
Rank Orgnsn ADR	11.25	-0.25
Raychem Corp	92.8125	-0.9375
Raytheon	56.625	-0.875
Reebok Intl	38.75	-0.5625
Reynolds Reyn A	19	-0.25
Reynolds Metals	67.1875	-2.75
Rite Aid Corp	57.875	+0.125
Roadway Services	57.5	-1.75
Rockwell Intl	54.4375	-0.4375
Rohm & Haas	86.5625	-2.5625
Rohr Industries	30.5	-0.875
Rouse	28.9375	-0.4375
Rowan	40	-0.25
Royal Dutch	53.0625	-1.8125
Rubbermaid	24.25	-0.0625
Ruddick	16.3125	+0.3125
Russell Corp	28.875	-0.75
Ryder System	36.125	-0.6875
Rymer Co	-	-
SPS Technology	47.75	-0.3125
Safeco Corp	49.125	-1.375
Safety-Kleen	22.25	-0.4375
St Paul's Cos	82.5	-1.875
Salomon Inc	82.8125	-1.75
San Diego Gas	25.1875	-0.1875
Sara Lee Corp	52.5625	+0.3125
Schering Plough	58.3125	-0.8125
Schlumberger	91.8125	+0.6875
Scientl Atlanta	19.625	-0.25
Scripps	41	-1
Seagate Tech	31	-0.4375
Seagram	36.375	-0.75
Sears Roebuck	43.25	-1.375
Sensormatic Elec	15.125	-0.375
Service Corp I	31.1875	+0.8125
Service Master	26.9375	+0.4375
Shared Medical	-	-
Shell Trans	42.5	-1.4375
Sherwin Wllms	28.875	-0.375
Shoney's Inc	4.75	-0.1875
Sigma Aldrich	32.8125	-1.6875
Silicon Graphics	15.9375	-0.0625
Skyline Corp	28.625	+0
Smith Intl	82.375	+0.3125
SmKline Bchm A	47.125	-0.5
Snap-On-Tools	44.9375	-0.9375
Sonat	48.3125	-1.75
Sonocco Prods	34.4375	-0.125
Sony Corp ADR	85.875	-7.1875
Southdown	58.5	-1
Southern Co	23.875	-0.375
Sth N. Eng Tel	44.75	-0.4375
Southw Airlines	35.3125	-0.5
Southwestn Bell	64.5	-0.8125
Spring Inds	47.0625	-0.625
Sprint Corp	55.875	-0.625
Standard Prods	28.125	-0.75
Stanley Works	42.9375	-0.8125
Stone Container	15.1875	-0.1875
Storage Technol	54.3125	-0.8125
Stratus Comp	38	-8.8125
Sun America	1.75	-0.125
Sun Company	38.875	-0.3125
Sundstrand	57.625	-0.875
Sun Microsystms	36.75	-1.25
Suntrust	68.8125	-0.75
Supervalu	36.8125	-0.875
Symantec	21.625	-1.4375
Sysco Corp	39.5	-0.0625
TJX Cos Inc	29.5625	-0.8125
TRW Inc	60.375	+0.1875
Tab Products	12.75	+0.125
Tambrands	-	-
Tandem Comp	-	-
Tandy Corp	37.375	-0.625
Telecom Corp	22.6875	-0.8125
Telefonos de Mex	49.1875	-4
Temple Inland	64.875	-0.4375
Tenneco	49.9375	-0.25
Teradyne	47.125	-4.625
Tesoro Pet	17	-0.5
Texaco	60.625	-0.9375
Texas Instrmnts	120.875	-4.125
Texas Utilities	36.9375	-0.5
Textron	61.125	-0.75
Thiokol	91.375	-1.5
Thomas & Betts	53.125	-0.375
ThreeCom	46.9375	-1.8125
Time Warner	59.125	-0.3125
Times-Mirror	54.25	-0.75
Timken	35.8125	-2.625
Torchmark	39.8125	-0.6875
Tosco Corp	32.3125	-0.5
Total Pet N Am	-	-
Toys R Us	33.0625	-0.875
Transamerica	100.25	-1.1875
Transco Energy	59.125	-1.1875
Travelers Grp	74.8125	-1.5625
Tribune	55.625	-0.25
TRINOVA Corp	-	-
Triton Energy	40.5625	-1.625
TWA	7.875	+0.3125
Tyco Labs	41.5	-0.125
Tyler	4.9375	-0.1875
UAL Corp	95	-4.5625
USG Corp	45.625	-0.5
UST Inc	30.5625	-0.4375
USX Marathon	38.5	-0.0625
USX-US Steel	35.5	-0.625
Unicom Corp	24.375	-0.375
Unilever NV	30.9375	-0.875
Union Camp	61.8125	-2.25
Union Carbide	49	-0.75
Union Electric	37	-0.5
Union Pacific	63.25	-0.875
Unisys Corp	14.375	-0.5
USAIR Group	48	-1.5
USF&G Corp	20.75	-0.25
US Home	35.5625	-0.125
US Life	-	-
US Robotics	-	-
US Surgical	28.4375	-0.3125
US Trust	59.25	-1.375
US West	39.9375	+0.6875
United Tech	76.625	-3.1875
Unocal Corp	43.1875	-1.125
VF Corp	87.75	-1.5625
Valero Energy	29.6875	-0.5
Varian Assoc	63.375	-0.5
Viacom Inc	29.75	-0.8125
Vishay	24.875	-0.875
Vulcan Materials	87.625	-0.375
Wachovia	76.6875	-0.1875
Walgreen	27.4375	-0.3125
Wal-Mart Stores	35.125	-0.5
Warner-Lambert	147.888	-1.3125
Wash Gas Light	25.75	-0.75
Washington Post	439.375	-11.6875
Waste Mgmnt Inc	30	-0.125
Watkins-Johnson	33.5	-0.3125
Weis Markets	34.4375	+0.0625
Wells Fargo	308.75	-5
Wendy's Intl	22.0625	-0.4375
Westinghouse El	28.75	-0.25
Westvaco	35.9375	-0.6875
Weyerhaeuser	52.375	-1.125
Whirlpool	62.5	-1.9375
Whitman	27.375	-0.1875
Williams Co	52	+0
Winn Dixie Stos	37.3125	-0.375
Woolworth	19.25	-0.75
World Comm	34	-0.3125
Worthington Ind	20.4375	-0.3125
Wrigley	72.1875	-0.75
Xerox	86	-1.3125
Yellow Freight	29.875	-0.25
Zenith Electron	9.375	-0.0625
Zero Co	26.5625	-0.4375

LONDON

Allied Domecq	513	-5.5
BAT Inds	564	-15
BT	474	-7
BTR	227	-6.25
Barclays	1550	-17
Bass	825	-3.5
Boots	836	-21
British Airways	618	-13.5
British Gas	-	-
General Electric	396	-19
Grand Met	584	-25.5
Glaxo	1270	-24
Guiness	587.5	-20
HSBC (75p shs)	1810	-181
Hanson	-	-
ICI	831	-13.5
Land Securities	1004	-4.5
Lloyds Bank	740	-29
Marks & Spencer	620	-14.5
NatWest Bank	950	-17.5
Prudential	664	-35
Reuters	702	-34.5
Sainsbury	473.5	-3.25
Shell Transport	434.5	-13
Unilever	466	-19

PARIS

Accor	1070	-49
Air Liquide	920	-32
Alcatel Alsthom	763	-39
Euro Disney	7.85	-0.05
Saint Gobain	876	-8

FRANKFURT

Allianz AG	-	-
BASF	-	-
Bayer	65.05	-2.95
Commerzbank	-	-
Daimler-Benz	128.1	-7
Deutsche Bank	-	-
Dresdner Bk	-	-
Hoechst	-	-
Lufthansa	31.5	-1.5
Mannesmann	819	-16.5
Metallgesellschaft	38.4	-0.13
Porsche	-	-

SOURCE: S&P COMSTOCK (DATE 23-OCT-97)

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

	Last	Change
Sal (Basket) (1)	3.8073	0
U.S. Dollar (1)	3.545	0
British Pound (1)	5.7794	0
Deutsch Mark (1)	1.9835	0
French Franc (1)	0.5918	0
Japanese Yen (100)	2.9336	0
Swiss Franc (1)	2.3903	0
Canadian Dollar (1)	2.5472	0
Italian Lira (1000)	2.0321	0
Jordanian Dinar (1)	4.9807	0

NEW YORK MARKET INDEXES

	Last	Change
DJ Industrials	7847.77	-186.88
DJ Transport	3292.83	-74.46
DJ Utils	245.08	-2.91
DJ Comp	2580.86	-55.42
NYSE Industr	625.12	-12.19
NYSE Transport	472.89	-8.16
NYSE Comp	499.49	-9.31
S&P 100	908.52	-19.71
S&P Spot Index	950.69	-17.8

OTHER MARKET INDEXES

	Last	Change
FTSE 100	4991.5	-157.3
Tokyo Nikkei	17151.5	-536.1
Singapore all-share index	412.28	-17.9
Hong Kong Hang Seng Index	10426.3	-1211.4
Israel Index	292.78	-8.64
Paris CAC 40	2856.87	-101.19
DAX	4171.45	+31.95
Madrid	599.42	-2.58
Swiss Bank	2686.81	-18.11
Sydney	2614.9	-68
Milan	1006.69	+8.5

DOLLAR CROSSRATES (US)

	Last	Change
Pound: spot	1.6317	+0.0002
Dec.future (CME)	1.6294	+0.0004
D-mark: spot	1.7867	-0.019
Dec.future (CME)	0.5673	+0.0059
S-franc: spot	1.4835	-0.0194
Dec.future (CME)	0.6865	+0.009
Yen: spot	121.94	+1.03
Dec.future (CME)	0.008265	-7.5e-005
CanDlr: spot	1.3909	-0.0004
Dec.future (CME)	0.721	+0.0004
AusDlr: spot	0.7045	-0.0039
Dec.future (CME)	0.7036	-0.0023
F-franc: spot	5.9206	-0.0629
It Lira: spot	1727	-15
Nlg: spot	1.9909	-0.0228
AuSchg: spot	12.4311	-0.1146
Rand: spot	4.73	+0.015
ECU: spot	1.1152	+0.0104

US COMMODITIES

	Last	Change
Cocoa (Dec) (CEC)	1600	+7
Coffee (Dec) (CEC)	152.2	+2
Wheat (Dec) (CBOT)	366.75	-7.25
Soybean (Nov) (CBOT)	694	+4.25
Sugar (Mar) (CEC)	11.73	-0
Orange juice (Nov)(CEC)	68.9	-0.95
Bonds Dec.future	115.313	+1.0625
S and P Dec.future	956	-19.3

LONDON COMMODITIES

	Last	Change
Cocoa (Dec) (LCE)	1062	-5
Coffee (Nov) (LCE)	1473	-27
Brent crude oil (Dec)(IPE)	2002	-31

SPOT MARKET METALS (US)

	Last	Change
Silver: spot	4.96	-0.08

NEW YORK METAL FUTURES

	Last	Change
Gold (Dec)	324.7	+1.1
Silver (Dec)	4.938	-0.095
Platinum (Jan)	422.9	+1.7
Palladium (Dec)	203.95	+2.45
High-grade copper (Dec)	0.939	-0.0145

LONDON METAL FIXES

	Last	Change
Gold AM fix	323.3	+0.6
Gold PM fix	324.3	+1.85
Silver fix	507.5	+10.5

Month in parentheses signals contract exp. date
(Spot market listings are from aproximately 23:30 Israel time. All others are closing quotes.)

SOURCE: S&P COMSTOCK (DATE 23-OCT-97)

Markets reel amid Asian turmoil

LONDON (Reuters) – Global stock markets skidded and bond prices were catapulted higher yesterday as Asia's market turmoil sent investors fleeing for safe havens.

The Dow Jones index was jolted after Hong Kong stocks closed 10 percent lower, triggered by soaring interest rates and fears of a run on the Hong Kong dollar.

"If the Dow starts to fall aggressively then terror will spread pretty quickly in the bond markets and the squeeze goes on," said Simon Cook, head of trading at Cooperative Bank in London.

The Dow was the latest victim of the jittery atmosphere surrounding stocks as it fell 170 points in initial trade.

US Treasuries and other major debt markets spiralled higher while Japan's stocks and Britain's FTSE 100, which has several large blue chips with major connections to Hong Kong, tumbled.

Markets in Hong Kong have come under pressure after Taiwan late last week abandoned an iron-clad defense of its currency. The Hang Seng index was almost 16% down at one point yesterday, the biggest slide ever in the history of the exchange.

The Hong Kong dollar stayed firm, bolstered by the sky-high interest rates running up to 250-300%, and major currencies such as the yen received only a mild jolt.

Hong Kong chief executive Tung Chee-hwa, during a visit to London which ended yesterday, has vowed several times this week that the Hong Kong dollar would be defended.

On Wednesday he said Hong Kong would not go for a competitive devaluation as others in the region had, and yesterday he added that repercussions on the stock market were to be expected.

"There is tremendous determination on the part of the Hong Kong government to maintain the exchange rate. We have every confidence this can be done," he told journalists in London.

In London, some analysts said there could be a respite from the market turmoil.

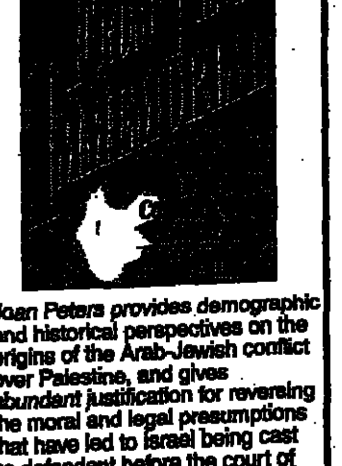
Analysts said the meltdown in Asian markets could put back the timetable for any interest rate rise by the US Federal Reserve – a factor which had kept the market on tenterhooks lately.

"It will be a factor inhibiting the Fed from raising interest rates in response to US domestic factors and, as a result, bonds will probably do quite well," said Stephen Lewis, chief economist at London Bond Broking.

Analysts in Asia expected Hong Kong to go to great lengths to keep the Hong Kong dollar peg in place. The official peg is HK$7.8 per US dollar, and the market tends to stay on the strong side of that level.

The Hong Kong dollar firmed in London yesterday amid a short squeeze, but dealers here said forward rates were looking ominous. It was quoted at HK$7.33 to the US dollar by 1500 GMT, stronger than HK$7.7410/20 at the Hong Kong open yesterday. Britain's FTSE 100 index, featuring hard-hit stocks such as HSBC, closed down 3% yesterday.

book



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ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (3.9.97)

Currency (deposit for:)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar ($250,000)	4.750	4.875	5.250
Pound sterling (£100,000)	5.250	5.375	5.750
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.750	1.875	2.375
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.000	0.125	0.500
Yen (10 million yen)	—	—	—

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (22.10.97)

	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS Buy	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS Sell	BANKNOTES Buy	BANKNOTES Sell	Rep. Rates**
Currency basket	3.7602	3.8209	—	—	3.8073
U.S. dollar	3.4943	3.5507	3.43	3.60	3.5450
German mark	1.9670	1.9670	1.93	2.03	1.9835
Pound sterling	5.7181	5.8104	5.62	5.90	5.7794
French franc	0.5869	0.5964	0.57	0.61	0.5918
Japanese yen (100)	2.9004	2.9472	2.85	2.99	2.9336
Dutch florin	1.7458	1.7740	1.71	1.80	1.7606
Swiss franc	2.3698	2.4081	2.32	2.45	2.3903
Swedish krona	0.4582	0.4656	0.45	0.48	0.4601
Norwegian krone	0.4884	0.4963	0.47	0.51	0.4872
Danish krone	0.5165	0.5249	0.50	0.54	0.5210
Finnish mark	0.6574	0.6681	0.64	0.68	0.6626
Canadian dollar	2.5180	2.5587	2.47	2.60	2.5472
Australian dollar	2.5458	2.5869	2.50	2.63	2.5214
S. African rand	0.7439	0.7559	0.67	0.76	0.7519
Belgian franc (10)	0.9541	0.9695	0.93	0.99	0.9623
Austrian schilling (10)	2.7948	2.8399	2.74	2.88	2.8186
Italian lira (1000)	2.0167	2.0483	1.98	2.09	2.0321
Jordanian dinar	4.9216	5.0010	4.86	5.19	4.9807
Egyptian pound	0.9900	1.0800	0.99	1.08	1.1078
ECU	3.8796	3.9422	—	—	3.9135
Irish punt	5.1381	5.2210	5.05	5.30	5.1814
Spanish peseta (100)	2.3321	2.3698	2.29	2.41	2.3623

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

Indians knot Series at 2 in 'Winter Wonderland'

Alomar sparks Tribe to 10-3 victory in Game 4; ninth-inning defensive lapses give Marlins 14 – 11 Game 3 win

CLEVELAND (AP) — This World Series game had all the elements: Snow, wind, record cold and another big night by Sandy Alomar.

On an evening when snow flurries fell at Jacobs Field, Manny Ramirez and Matt Williams homered as Cleveland beat the Florida Marlins 10-3, evening the Series at two wins each.

Alomar had three of the Indians' 15 hits and drove in three runs, ensuring the Series will return to Miami tomorrow.

It will surely be warmer at Pro Player Stadium than in Cleveland. The 38 ° F at the start made it the coldest since World Series temperatures have been recorded since 1975, and snow fell for the first time in the Fall Classic since Game 1 in 1979 at Baltimore.

The weather, though, had little impact on this game.

Instead, the Indians took a 6-0 lead after three innings and were never threatened. Jaret Wright outpitched Tony Saunders in a matchup of rookie starters as the Indians won before a crowd of 44,877.

Game 5 was slated for last night. Orel Hershiser was scheduled to start for the Indians against rookie Livan Hernandez in a rematch of Game 1, won by Florida.

Despite all the Indians' hits, Marquis Grissom had none. He went 0-for-4 and ended his 15-game hitting streak, two short of the World Series record held by Hank Bauer.

Wright, 21, improved to 3-0 in the postseason. He gave up three runs and five hits in six innings and is now 9-0 when pitching after an Indians' loss – not bad for someone who started the year in the minor leagues.

The unusual weather was the focus before the game. The Indians took batting practice in snow showers as the stadium sound system played *Winter Wonderland* and *Jingle Bell Rock* among others.

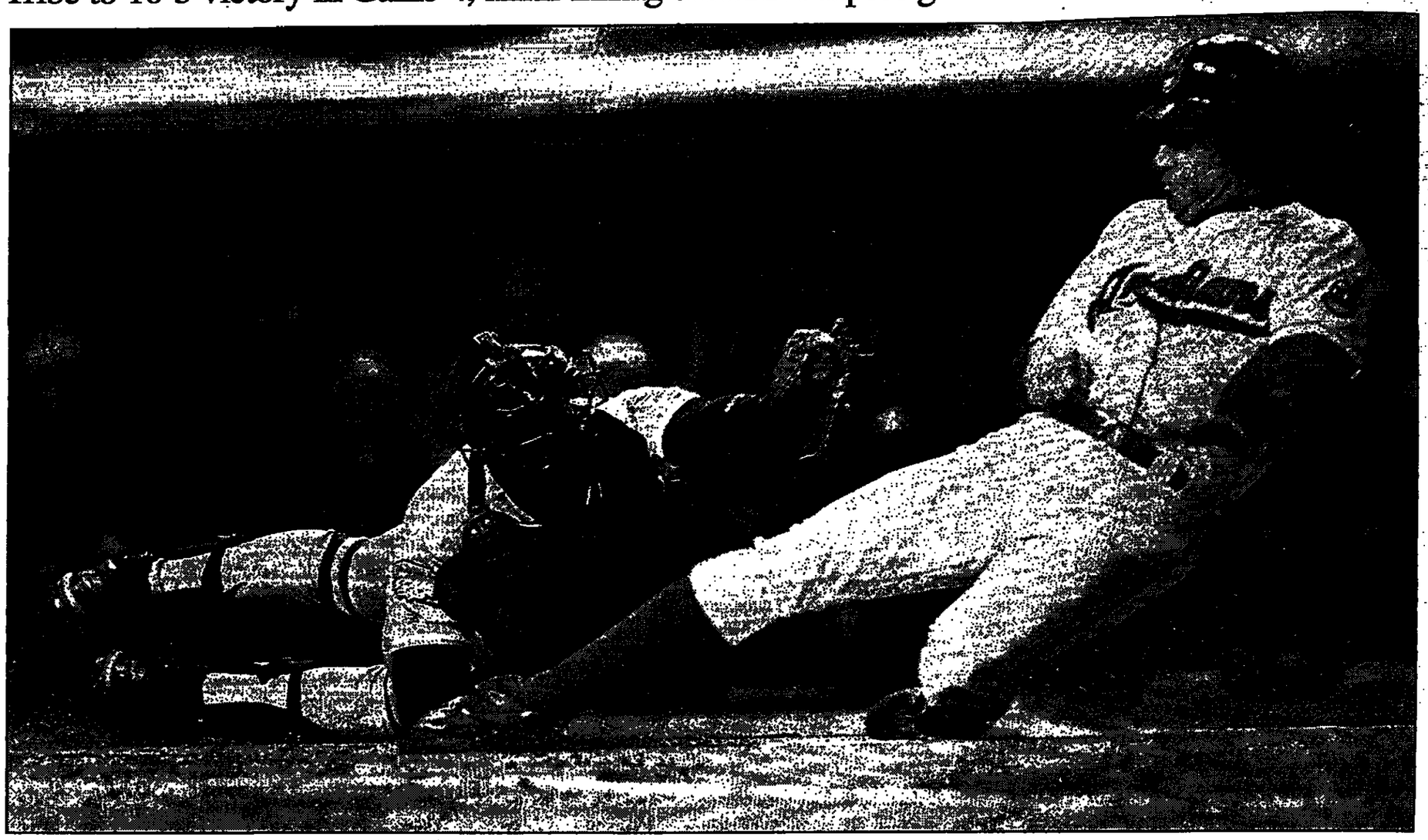
The snow did not seem to affect play, however. It was nothing like Game 3, when the blustery conditions contributed to 17 walks and six errors in Florida's wacky 14-11 victory.

The Indians scored in the first inning for the fourth straight game. Saunders struck out leadoff batter Bip Roberts, but it was all downhill for the young lefty after that.

Omar Vizquel singled and Ramirez followed by going the opposite way for his fourth home run of the postseason, a drive into the right-field stands.

The crowd got another chance to let loose moments later when Matt Williams singled with two outs and scored on Alomar's double, making a neat hook slide to avoid catcher Charles Johnson's swipe tag.

Florida, which committed half of the six errors in Tuesday night's game, made two wild throws in a three-run third that finished Saunders.



HOOK SLIDE – Indians' Matt Williams slides by Marlins catcher Charles Johnson's attempted tag in the first inning of Game 4. Williams scored from first on Sandy Alomar's double. (Reuters)

Ramirez drew a leadoff walk and moved up on Saunders' poor pickoff attempt. David Justice got an infield single that shortstop Edgar Renteria threw away when his back foot slipped on the dirt, and Alomar added an RBI single.

Rookie Antonio Alfonseca relieved with the bases loaded and no outs. Tony Fernandez hit an RBI single that made it 6-0, but Alfonseca retired the next three batters without any more damage.

Alfonseca, who replaced injured Alex Fernandez on Florida's roster for the Series, pitched three scoreless innings.

Jim Eisenreich, whose home run began Florida's rally from a 7-3 deficit in Game 3, hit an RBI single in the fourth that made it 6-1. Only a nice stop in the hole by Vizquel, who won his fifth Gold Glove as the American League's best fielding shortstop earlier in the day, prevented the Marlins from getting more.

Moises Alou showed no ill effects from a flu bug when he hit a two-run homer in the sixth as Florida closed to 6-3. It was his second home run of the Series.

Eisenreich followed with a single and, as the fans began to grow anxious, the Indians caught a break when Johnson hit a line drive that first baseman Jim Thome caught. Eisenreich was trapped off the bag, and he and Thome did a little dance before the tag was applied to complete an inning-ending double play.

The Indians added a run in the sixth on a bases-loaded grounder by Alomar off Ed Vosberg.

Game 4

Florida	000	102	000	3	6	2
Cleveland	303	001	12x	10	15	0

Saunders, Alfonseca (3), Vosberg (6), Powell (8) and C.Johnson; J.Wright, B.Anderson (7) and S.Alomar. W—J.Wright, 1-0. L—Saunders, 0-1. Sv—B.Anderson (1). HRs—Florida, Alou (2). Cleveland, Ramirez (2), M.Williams (1).

Game Three
Marlins 14, Indians 11

Fittingly, Bobby Bonilla, Darren Daulton and Clifford Floyd scored on errors in the ninth inning to open the floodgates as Florida won on Tuesday.

"Tonight both teams out-uglied each other," said Cleveland manager Mike Hargrove. "This was about as ugly a game as you've ever seen."

The Marlins also committed three errors, but the Indians' all came in a nightmarish top of the ninth as Florida scored seven runs to bust open a 7-7 game.

The 25 total runs were second only to the all-time standard for World Series ugliness, the 15-14 Game 4 in 1993 between the Toronto Blue Jays and Philadelphia Phillies. This game lasted 4 hours, 12 minutes, two minutes shy of that game's record for a nine-inning contest.

WORLD SERIES
Saturday: Florida 7, Cleveland 4
Sunday: Cleveland 6, Florida 1
Tuesday: Florida 14, Cleveland 11
Wednesday: Cleveland 10, Florida 3, series tied 2-2
Last night: Florida (Hernandez 12-3) at Cleveland (Hershiser 14-7)
Tomorrow: Cleveland at Florida
Sunday: Cleveland at Florida, if necessary

All the World Series records equaled in the game were negative ones: Cleveland's three errors in one inning (done six times previously), Indian starter Charles Nagy's three straight walks in the third (done six times before) and Florida starter Al Leiter's four walks in the fourth (done seven times before).

Gary Sheffield had five runs batted in for Florida, one short of the six RBI by the New York Yankees' Bobby Richardson in 1960.

"I think it was a combination of him and our mistakes," Hargrove said of the performance by Sheffield, who went 3 for 5 with a home run and scored twice.

"Gary came up big tonight, obviously," said Florida manager Jim Leyland, who also called a Sheffield catch in right on a screaming Jim Thome liner "a dandy."

Cleveland's Marquis Grissom had two hits, extending his remarkable World Series hitting streak. He has hit in all 15 World Series games he has played.

By the time 3 2/3 innings had passed, every player in the Cleveland lineup had gotten on base by hit, walk or error, but Florida wound up outhitting the Indians 16-10. Both teams left nine men on base.

Neither starter figured in the decision after both suffered rocky outings. Nagy gave up five runs on six hits with four walks and five strikeouts.

He yielded three home runs – solo shots by Sheffield and Daulton and Jim Eisenreich's two-run blast in the sixth that brought the Marlins to within 7-5 after Cleveland led 7-3 through five innings.

Leiter yielded seven runs, four of them earned, on six hits, including Thome's two-run homer, and six walks in just 4 2/3 innings. He was hurt by the three errors – one of them his own on a grounder by Bip Roberts, the first batter he faced, and two by Bonilla at third.

Reliever Dennis Cook got the win for one inning of scoreless relief. Eric Plunk, the fifth of seven Cleveland pitchers, took the loss, yielding four runs on two hits and two walks in two-thirds of an inning.

The top of the ninth deserved a mini-linescore of its own: 7 runs, four hits (by Daulton, Charles Johnson, Sheffield and Bonilla), 3 errors (by Plunk, Grissom and Fernandez), 1 left on base and a wild pitch (by closer Jose Mesa). Eleven Marlins batted in the inning to take the score from 7-7 to 14-7.

Fernandez had a sacrifice fly in the bottom of the ninth, Grissom had an RBI single and Roberts had a two-run double for Cleveland, but even that was not enough.

Game 3

Florida	101	102	207	14	16	3
Cleveland	200	320	004	11	10	3

Fla — Leiter, Heredia (5th), Cook (8th), Nen (9th) and Johnson. Cle — Nagy, Anderson (7th), Jackson (7th), Assenmacher (8th), Plunk (8th), Mesa (9th) and Alomar. WP — Cook (1-0) LP — Plunk (0-1) HRs: Fla — Gary Sheffield (1), Daulton (1) Eisenreich (1). Cle — Thome (2)

Griffey wins 8th Gold Glove Award

NEW YORK (Reuters) – Seattle Mariners center fielder Ken Griffey Jr, who dazzled fans all season with his home run hitting, Wednesday was rewarded for fielding excellence when he received his eighth consecutive American League Gold Glove Award.

Griffey's eight Gold Gloves matched him with Dwight Evans and Paul Blair for second best all-time in his league, trailing only Tigers Hall of Famer Al Kaline.

Atlanta Braves pitcher Greg Maddux also won his eighth successive Gold Glove Award in the National League.

Three players appearing in the 1997 World Series received Gold Gloves.

Cleveland Indians shortstop Omar Vizquel and third baseman Matt Williams were honored for fielding excellence in the AL in voting by managers and coaches. It was the fifth Gold Glove for Vizquel and fourth for Williams, who had previously won in the NL with San Francisco.

Florida Marlins catcher Charles Johnson was acknowledged for the third time.

Joining Griffey in the outfield for the AL were first-time winners Jim Edmonds of the Anaheim Angels and Bernie Williams of the New York Yankees.

San Francisco Giants left fielder Barry Bonds was honored for the seventh time in the NL. Raul Mondesi of the Los Angeles Dodgers and Larry Walker of the Colorado Rockies joined Bonds in the NL outfield.

Mike Mussina of the Baltimore Orioles was named the best fielding pitcher in the AL, with Ivan Rodriguez of the Texas Rangers winning his sixth consecutive Gold Glove at catcher.

Baltimore Orioles first baseman Rafael Palmeiro and Minnesota Twins second baseman Chuck Knoblauch complete the AL infield.

San Francisco first baseman J.T. Snow won for the first time as a National Leaguer after earning a pair with Anaheim.

Second baseman Craig Biggio of the Houston Astros, San Diego Padres third baseman Ken Caminiti and New York Mets shortstop Rey Ordonez were the other National League infield Gold Glove winners.

Holzinger powers Sabres past Calgary

BUFFALO (AP) – Brian Holzinger scored two power-play goals to lead the Buffalo Sabres to a 4-1 victory over the Calgary Flames on Wednesday night.

Buffalo goaltender Dominik Hasek, last season's most valuable player in the NHL, stopped 17 shots in his first win since October 9 in a game against Washington.

Calgary's Rick Tabaracci also made 17 saves, but was victimized for three goals in six power-play shots.

Darryl Shannon and Brad May also scored for Buffalo. Jason Dawe assisted on both Holzinger goals. James Patrick scored for Calgary.

Buffalo (3-5-3) snapped a four-game winless streak. Calgary lost its second straight game, and is 1-6-2 so far this season.

Hurricanes 4, Blues 3

Host Carolina, off to the franchise's worst start ever, beat surging St. Louis with two second-period goals 48 seconds apart.

The Hurricanes, who came into the game with a 1-7-2 record and a slumping offense, fell behind 2-1 before rallying with a second-period flurry. That helped break the Blues' eight-game unbeaten streak (7-0-1).

Defenseman Kevin Haller scored his first goal of the season to tie the score. Nelson Emerson gave the Hurricanes a lead they never lost 48 seconds later with a wraparound shot.

Each team scored in the third period, but the Hurricanes hung on to hand the NHL leader in points its first loss since a season-opening defeat to Buffalo.

Canadiens 3, Panthers 0

Jocelyn Thibault stopped 26 shots to record his sixth career shutout, leading Montreal to its first home victory of the season.

Thibault, in his third start and fourth appearance this season, stopped 14 third-period shots and recorded his first shutout as Montreal avoided matching its worst home start since the 1941-42 season. The Canadiens opened that season with an 0-4-1 record.

Martin Rucinsky scored a goal and added an assist, and Saku Koivu and Patrice Brisebois also scored for Montreal, which ended a four-game winless streak at home.

Senators 6, Maple Leafs 2

Shawn McEachern scored three goals and linemate Alexei Yashin added two as Ottawa won on the road

The victory moved Ottawa (6-2-2) back into a first-place tie with the idle Boston Bruins in the Northeast Division. The Senators have won four straight games while Toronto slipped to 2-6-1 and is winless in four home games this season.

Ottawa broke open the game in the second period when McEachern scored a pair of goals to break a 1-1 tie. Three minutes later, Yashin put a shot up high past Toronto goaltender Glenn Healy to make it 4-1.

Avalanche 4, Capitals 3

Wade Belak scored his first NHL goal with 72 seconds remaining, lifting Colorado to a home win.

The 100th consecutive sellout crowd of 16,061 at McNichols Arena erupted when Adam Deadmarsh slid the puck from the left side of the ice to the opposite post, where Belak fought off a defender long enough to beat goaltender Olaf Kolzig from point-blank range.

It was the first loss of the season for Kolzik (6-1), who led the NHL with a .932 saves percentage while subbing for injured Bill Ranford.

Peter Bondra, Michal Pivonka and Adam Oates scored goals as Washington took leads of 1-0 after one period and 3-1 after two.

Gretzky's wife hospitalized after freak injury at hockey game

Janet Gretzky, wife of New York Rangers star Wayne Gretzky, was hospitalized after she was injured while watching a hockey game at Madison Square Garden.

A spokesman for St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital said she would only be held overnight after suffering a mild concussion.

The incident occurred Wednesday night during a game between the Rangers and the Blackhawks, which Chicago won 1-0, when a pane of Plexiglas from the rink's sideboards was knocked loose by a player and hit her in the head.

Janet Gretzky was sitting in the first row near center ice when Rangers defenseman Ulf Samuelsson checked Chicago's Sergei Krivokrasov into the boards, knocking the Chick Plexiglas pane onto her.

First-aid workers rushed to Janet Gretzky's aid. After about 10 minutes, they carried her out on a stretcher. She appeared to be unconscious right after the blow but regained consciousness as she was being removed from the arena.

Gretzky was visibly upset after skating over to check on his wife. After a delay of 10 minutes, he finished the game and quickly left for the hospital.

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Washington	7	2	0	14	33	19
Philadelphia	6	3	1	13	32	23
New Jersey	4	3	0	8	28	16
N.Y. Islanders	3	3	2	8	23	20
N.Y. Rangers	2	4	4	8	22	25
Florida	2	5	1	5	14	25
Tampa Bay	2	6	1	5	15	29

Northeast Division

Boston	7	3	0	14	29	23
Ottawa	6	2	2	14	32	23
Pittsburgh	6	3	2	14	30	23
Montreal	4	2	2	10	22	14
Buffalo	3	5	2	8	25	31
Carolina	2	7	2	6	25	36

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Detroit	7	1	2	16	38	20
St. Louis	7	2	1	15	34	22
Dallas	5	4	1	11	31	25
Phoenix	4	3	1	9	25	24
Toronto	2	6	1	5	18	29
Chicago	2	7	0	4	12	28

Pacific Division

Colorado	6	1	3	15	37	25
Los Angeles	3	4	3	9	35	32
Vancouver	3	3	2	8	22	28
Anaheim	3	4	2	8	17	24
Edmonton	3	6	1	7	19	33
San Jose	2	7	0	4	22	31
Calgary	1	6	2	4	19	31

Wednesday's results: Buffalo 4, Calgary 1; Carolina 4, St. Louis 3; Montreal 3, Florida 0; Chicago 1, NY Rangers 0; Ottawa 6, Toronto 2; Colorado 4, Washington 3 Pittsburgh 5, San Jose 2; Detroit 4, Anaheim 1.

Tuesday's results: Philadelphia 7, Tampa Bay 1; Vancouver 5, Dallas 1; Boston 2, Edmonton 1; Anaheim 4, Phoenix 3; Los Angeles 3, NY Islanders 2

Knicks deal for Celtics' Mills

NEW YORK (Reuters) – The New York Knicks Wednesday shipped four players to the Boston Celtics in exchange for small forward Chris Mills and two future second round draft picks.

The Celtics acquired forwards Walter McCarty, Dontae' Jones and John Thomas, all first round draft picks, and backup point guard Scott Brooks.

The Knicks had been in the market for an experienced small forward to share playing time with Larry Johnson, and Mills seemed to fit the bill.

"He will provide us with great depth at the small forward and the off-guard positions," said Knicks president Ernie Grunfeld. "He's a young veteran who is a perfect fit for our club."

The 6-foot-6 Mills, who averaged 13.4 points and 6.2 rebounds last season, was signed by the Celtics in August as a free agent after spending four seasons with Cleveland.

New Boston coach Rick Pitino has been remaking a Celtics team coming off a franchise-worst 15-67 season, and apparently decided Mills was worth more on the trading blocks.

Wednesday's deal reunites Pitino with McCarty, who was a member of Pitino's 1996 national college championship team at Kentucky.

Jones, the 21st overall selection in 1996, spent last year on the injured list while rehabilitating from foot surgery.

Australian cricketers angered by ACB, threaten strike

SYDNEY (AP) – Australia's cricketers, angered by a quick dismissal in pay negotiations with the national body, are reported to be considering boycotts of one-day international matches this season.

Local television reported yesterday that boycotts of one-day games were considered an ideal bargaining tool by the players because of the high financial rewards that go to the Australian Cricket Board for hosting them.

Meanwhile, Australian Cricketers' Association president Tim May, who said Wednesday that strikes were an option, said there was undiminished support for the players' proposals rejected by the ACB.

"Without any doubt the players' resolve to have their proposals fairly dealt with by the ACB has intensified," May said in a statement released prior to his meeting with ACA office bearers, including Test players Shane Warne and Steve Waugh.

"There is a feeling of deep anger at the walkout by the ACB at the outset of yesterday's meeting and the board's refusal to even discuss the players' proposals," the statement said.

The union proposals, set out in a 25-page document, include contracts for all state players and power sharing at board level.

ACB negotiators walked out of a meeting on the proposals after rejecting them in a 30-second statement on Wednesday.

"By not being prepared to discuss the players' proposals, the ACB as their employer has brought about a serious deterioration in the relationship between the players and the ACB," May said.

Sports Editors: Joe Hoffman & Ori Lewis

هكذا من الأصل

هكذا من الأصل

Olympiakos crushes Maccabi 87-73

By BRIAN FREEMAN

Olympiakos demonstrated why it is a strong candidate to become the first team in seven seasons to repeat as European champions, convincingly defeating Maccabi Tel Aviv 87-73 at Yad Eliahu in the EuroLeague last night.

The Greek club improved its record to 5-0 in Group A by snapping Maccabi's eight-game home winning streak and capturing its eight straight contest on the road, including its three away contests this season.

Arturas Karnisovas, who haunted Maccabi while in a Barcelona uniform, did it again for his new team, scoring 29 points to lead all players and help hand Maccabi its worst home defeat since Tracer Milan thrashed the blue-and-yellow by 20 points in the 1986/87 season.

But he had plenty of help from his disciplined teammates, who always seemed to find an answer to whatever Maccabi threw at it.

Olympiakos, which entered the game with a 49.3 percent accuracy rate from three-point range, bettered itself on that impressive figure by shooting an outstanding 12-17 (70.5%) from behind the arc last night, including 5-6 from brilliant point guard Michael Hawkins

And the Greek defense, which has been the trademark of the team's success, held the Israelis to only 32 second-half points after finishing the first period with a 43-41 advantage.

Maccabi, which dropped its third consecutive game to fall to 2-3 in the group, finds itself in a very difficult situation midway through the first stage of the league if it wants to be one of the top three teams to play the bottom three clubs of Group B in the second stage.

Tel Aviv is in fourth place, despite playing three of its games at home, and has only beaten the two teams under it in the standings.

Maccabi held its own in the first half, staying close to the defending champions despite 21 points from Karnisovas.

Maccabi, which held a 14-6 rebounding margin at the break, controlled the inside well with eight points in the paint from center Rashard Griffith and had both Oded Katash and Doron Sheffer shooting accurately from outside.

But in the second period, after Griffith tied the score 20 seconds into the half at 43-43, Olympiakos went on a 12-3 tear to build up a nine-point advantage five minutes into the half.

From that point, Maccabi was unable to play catch-up, as the Greek defensive intensity played havoc on the home team.

Griffith was held in check in the half after his opening basket and Katash, who was 4-8 from the field and 8-8 from the free-throw line in the first half, went only 2-7 from the field without a free-throw attempt in the second.

Even 12 second-half points from a rejuvenated Randy White, who played with four fouls the entire half after committing a silly foul in his own backcourt with two seconds left in the first period, was not enough.

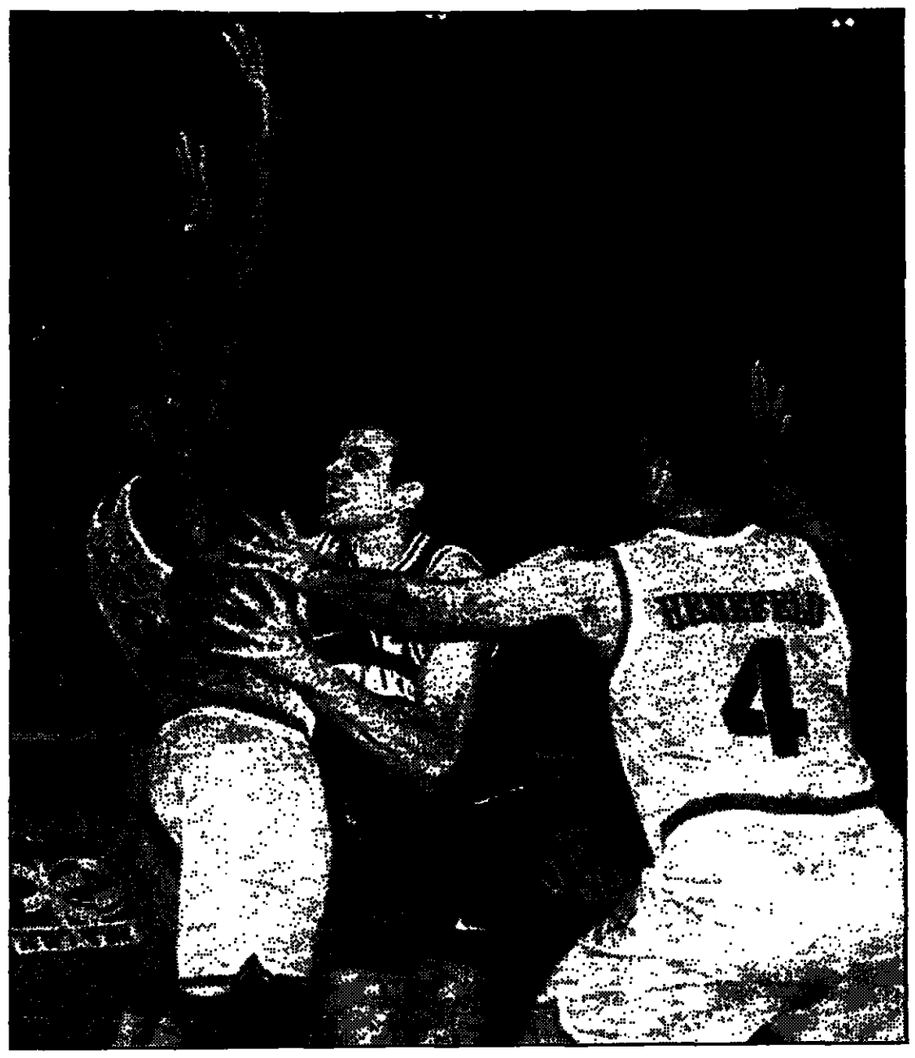
Maccabi did try to come back several times, most notably on the outside shooting of Doron Sheffer, who closed the gap to 74-70 with his second three-pointer of the half with just under six minutes to play.

But, as was the pattern the entire night, Olympiakos immediately responded with a 10-1 run to close off any hopes of an Israeli comeback. The Greeks also took control of the boards, out-rebounding Maccabi 16-8 in the second period.

Karnisovas was simply outstanding the entire evening, hitting on 8-10 from the field and 11-12 from the free-throw line for 29 points while pulling down 7 rebounds.

EuroLeague Group A

Olympiakos	5	0	10
Efes Pilsen	3	2	8
CSKA Moscow	3	2	8
Maccabi Tel Aviv	2	3	7
Real Madrid	1	4	6
Limoges	1	4	6



UNSTOPPABLE – Olympiakos center Dragan Tarlac cuts through Maccabi's Rashard Griffith and Nadav Henefeld at Yad Eliyahu last night. (Reuters)

Michael Hawkins scored 20, Dragan Tarlac 13 (with 7 rebounds), Milan Tomic 10, John Rogers 9 and Dussan Voulktsevic 6.

For Maccabi, Doron Sheffer and Oded Katash both had 19, Randy White 18, Rashard Griffith 15 and Nadav Henefeld 2.

In other Group A action last night, Real Madrid beat Limoges in France 85-71 and CSKA Moscow beat visiting Efes Pilsen 77-73.

Maccabi now has a week's break from European action before traveling to France on November 6 to take on Limoges.

SPORTS *in brief*

Women's 5,000m record falls again in China

SHANGHAI (Reuters) – China's Jiang Bo sliced another three seconds off the women's 5,000 meters world record yesterday, the second time in a week a new mark had been set in the event at the China National Games.

The 20-year-old Jiang clocked 14:28.09 in the final at the national games, beating the mark set by team mate Dong Yanmei who clocked 14:31.27 on Tuesday.

Jiang's time of 14:31.30 in Tuesday's heats had also been inside the previous record of 14:36.45 set by Fernanda Ribeiro of Portugal in 1995.

Israeli pair wins Metulla ice skating dance title

Israel's Galit Chait and Sergei Sakanovsky won the dance title at Skate Israel 1997 at Metulla yesterday. Their win assures them a trip to the Winter Olympics in Nagano, Japan in February 1998. Thay are now ranked 18th in the world.

Israeli Michael Shmerkin finished second in the men's program. *Lionel Gaffen*

Wales, Scotland may figure in England World Cup bid

LONDON (Reuters) — England's bid to stage the 2006 World Cup finals could involve some matches being played in Wales and Scotland, campaign director Alec McGivan said yesterday.

McGivan stressed the idea could only develop with FIFA's approval but he said: "This is purely something we are considering for organizational purposes.

"We will have first class stadiums on our doorstep in Glasgow and Cardiff and they could be part of our plans to help stage the 32-nation finals."

England are among a number of countries considering a bid for the World Cup in nine years' time, with Germany, South Africa, Morocco, Argentina and Brazil also in the hunt.

Warwickshire: Lara definitely coming

BIRMINGHAM (AP) – Warwickshire said yesterday they have received confirmation from record-breaking West Indies batsman Brian Lara that he intends to play for the English county cricket club next season.

Chief executive Dennis Amiss secured the necessary clarification after speaking to Lara as he traveled with the West Indies team to Pakistan.

Barcelona survives late Hapoel comeback, 88-81

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

It's tough winning a basketball game playing two against five, which is pretty much why Hapoel Jerusalem lost at home to Barcelona last night, 88-81, dropping the capital squad's EuroLeague record to 1-4.

Relying almost exclusively on Radisav Curcic and Kenny Williams for scoring, except for brief periods in the second half, Jerusalem fell to a deeper, better shooting Catalan squad as Hapoel's late comeback fell short.

When Adi Gordon stole the ball and fed Motti Daniel for a lay-up with just under a minute and a half left in the game, it looked like Jerusalem would close what had been an 11-point second-half gap to just four. But Daniel was grabbed by a Spanish defender on a flagrant foul, sending him to the line, and giving Jerusalem another possession.

However, Daniel hit only one of the two free throws, making it just 84-79. Kenny Williams grabbed the offensive rebound and stuffed it home, cutting the lead to 84-81 and sending the crowd of 3,000 plus into a dance that rivaled some seen earlier in the day during Simhat Torah celebrations.

Unfortunately, Williams, like Daniel, couldn't nail the free throw. When Xavier Fernandez buried a three-pointer seconds later, it was all over for Hapoel, and even attempts to reduce the margin of defeat proved fruitless.

The second-half comeback shouldn't have been necessary based on Hapoel's first half performance. Williams was remarkable, scoring 16 of his game-high 25 points and adding 10 rebounds in an attempt to change management's recent thoughts about replacing him.



NOW WAY THROUGH – Barcelona's Jerrod Mustaf prevents Kenny Williams from scoring during action at Malha last night. (Reuters)

Jerusalem out-rebounded the taller Spanish squad, thanks partially to the many minutes Barcelona's Jerrod Mustaf sat out with a stomach ailment. Coach Gadi Kedar's team also turned the ball only once, an impressive statistic against the defensively tough Spaniards.

Radisav Curcic added 10 and Yariv Yatzkan provided a spark off the bench as Jerusalem recovered from a 25-17 deficit to lead 44-39, thanks largely to a late three-pointer by Adi Gordon.

Unfortunately, that was Gordon's only basket of the night as he once again failed to produce in EuroLeague play, leaving even Jerusalem fans calling for him to be benched.

The second half saw Barcelona go to the boards with much more tenacity. Coupled with five three-pointers in the half, two by Fernandez, the Spaniards controlled the boards and had a 69-60 lead when Fernandez clicked from beyond the arc with 9:46 to play.

With Jerusalem's offense sputtering badly and Williams unsuccessfully trying to save the day by himself, Kedar kept Doron Shefa on the bench way too long. When Shefa finally saw some playing time, with 7:53 left, he helped key Jerusalem's late run, coupling with Motti Daniel to reduce the Spanish advantage to 80-74 with just under three minutes left.

But Mustaf, who had 10 crucial second-half points, hit a key turnaround jumper to up Barcelona's lead to 84-76, too much for the outmanned Jerusalem squad to overcome.

Kedar has to be pleased with the energy his club showed in clawing its way back against one of the perennial powerhouses of Europe. But he has to be concerned by their continued inability to hit anything from outside in Europe, making it easy for defenders to double or triple team Curcic and/or Williams.

Barcelona, in keeping with the tradition of Spanish clubs, showed it could win even without point guard Aleksandar Djordjevic or center Roberto Duenas. They placed six men in double figures, led by Spanish national team point guard Rafael Jofresa with 18, who hit four threes overall, a trio of them in the first half. The victory improved their record to 3-2 in EuroLeague play, and they look like almost certain contenders for one of the two top spots in Group C.

The loss sets up a meeting of two clubs out to avenge EuroLeague defeats when Jerusalem clashes with Maccabi Tel Aviv Sunday night at Malha.

In the other Group C games last night, host Kinder Bologna beat Ulker 94-64 and Partizan Belgrade defeated visiting Pau Orthez 86-72

EuroLeague Group C

Kinder Bologna	4	1	9
Barcelona	3	2	8
Partizan Belgrade	3	2	8
Pau-Orthez	2	3	7
Ulker	2	3	7
Hapoel Jerusalem	1	4	6

Rafter wins after Sampras beaten

STUTTGART (Reuters) – US Open champion Patrick Rafter stormed back from a set down to post a third- round win over David Prinosil and avoid following world No. 1 Pete Sampras out of the Stuttgart Open yesterday.

Third seed Rafter, seeing his first action after a first-round bye and a second-round walkover, got off to a sluggish start but recovered in stunning fashion, overwhelming his 85th-ranked German opponent 3-6 6-2 6-1 to reach the quarter-finals.

Victory left Rafter the highest remaining seed in the tournament following Sampras's 6-4 6-4 loss to 16th seed Richard Krajicek an hour earlier.

Having already eliminated crowd favorite Boris Becker, Krajicek continued his domination over Sampras with a no-nonsense 6-4 6-4 win.

Krajicek, the 1996 Wimbledon champion, is one of only a handful of players who can claim a winning record against Sampras, having lost just once to the American in their last five meetings stretching back to 1993.

Seeing his first action since winning the Grand Slam Cup in September, Sampras refused to blame the loss on his lack of court time or any lingering affects from a shoulder injury which forced him out of the Swiss indoor tournament the day after his victory.

"I felt fine, I just have to be a little sharper," Sampras said. "I wasn't used to the speed, I haven't played a big server like that for some time.

"I can't be too hard on myself, I'm not going to win every match."

Seventh seed Yevgeny Kafelnikov of Russia followed Sampras out of the tournament, losing 7-6 6-3 to ninth seed Chilean Marcelo Rios, while Sweden's Jonas Bjorkman, the 13th seed, booked his place in the quarter-finals with a 6-2 3-6 6-3 win over Britain's Tim Henman.

More sports news on Page 21

Plain sailing for Friedman

By HEATHER CHAIT

The coast looks clear for windsurfer Gal Friedman to earn his sixth national title today in the 40th championships being held at Sdot Yam.

For Friedman, bronze medalist at the Atlanta Olympics and the European Championships earlier this month in Spain, the event is essentially a warm-up for the world championships to be held in Australia in December.

The absence of injured Amit Inbar, Friedman's main rival, has made the sailing even smoother for Friedman.

Friedman ended the first day in seventh place after being disqualified for an early start but he won all his three sails yesterday to take the lead. Tal Mochero is in second place.

Seven times women champion Michal Hein leads among the women and is fourth overall. Second and 11th overall is Anat Kolodny, who placed second in this year's world youth championships.

In the 470-division, the Shental brothers, Nir and Ran, are in first place with wins in four of their six sails.

Eli Zuckerman and Saar Behr are second with Udi Gal and Gidi Kliger third.

The women's team of Anat Fabrikant and Shani Kedmi, who placed fifth in this year's world championships held in Tel Aviv, are in fifth place overall.

In the 420-division and fighting for a place in the European Championships to be held in December in Italy are Amit Geva and Yaniv Yosef who lead Nimrod Nir and Elad Oz.

The last day's sails begin today at 11am.

Erlich, Levy in national tennis championships final

By HEATHER CHAIT

A second successive national title looks in store for Eyal Erlich today in the final of the Israel Tennis Championships at Hadar Yosef.

Top-seeded Erlich, 150 in the ATP Tour rankings, will play Harel Levy, 481.

In the semi-finals yesterday, Erlich beat Noam Behr 7-6, 7-6 and Levy defeated Lior Mor 7-6, 6-1.

Three of Israel's top players, Eyal Ran, Oren Motevassel and Amir Hadad chose not to compete in the tournament.

The top local women's player, Anna Smashnova, was also absent due to commitments on the professional circuit in the US, leaving the top seeding to Hila Rosen. She will meet Nataly Cahana in today's final.

In the semi-finals, Rosen beat last year's winner Limor Gabbai 6-1, 7-5 and Cahana ousted Tzippi Obziler 6-1, 6-1.

The same foursome from the semi-finals were on court again for the women's doubles final yesterday with Rosen and Cahana beating Gabbai and Obziler 6-4, 6-3.

The men's doubles title went to Levy and Noam Okun who beat Nir Welgreen and Ofer Sela.

Today's women's final begins at 14:00, with the men starting an hour later.

Tomorrow, the semi-finals in the National League playoffs will see ASA Tel Aviv face Hapoel Lod and Elitzur Kochav Yair play Ramle Sports Club.

SCOREBOARD

ENGLISH SOCCER – Results on Wednesday: Premier League: Derby 1, Wimbledon 1. Division One: Charlton 1, Birmingham 1; Manchester City 0, Stoke 1; Wolves 2, Tranmere 1. Division Three: Brighton 0, Lincoln 1.

Parma beat defending champions Dortmund

LONDON (AP) – Parma edged defending European Cup holders Borussia Dortmund 1-0 to go top of their Champions League group Wednesday.

But three bigger names, Real Madrid, Bayern Munich and Manchester United, moved impressively closer to clinching quarterfinal places while a fourth, Barcelona, are virtually out.

A second half strike by Argentine forward Hernan Crespo provided Parma with their hard-earned victory against a Dortmund team struggling in the Bundesliga but playing with more fire in Europe.

With seven points, the Serie A runners up top Group A with Dortmund a point behind. Sparta Prague are two points further back after a 3-0 victory over Turkey's Galatasaray, who are point-less and last.

While Parma made a decisive move forward, Real Madrid, Bayern Munich and Manchester United appear to be in overdrive.

Carsten Jancker and Giovane Elber shot two goals apiece as Bayern crushed Paris Saint Germain 5-1 to make it three wins in a row. Turkey's Besiktas jumped into second place ahead of PSG by beating last place IFK Goteborg 1-0 but Bayern leads by three with three games to go.

The same applies to Real Madrid which trounced Olympiakos 5-1 despite conceding an early goal and also have nine points from three games.

After Nikos Dabitzas had silenced the Real fans, the record six-time cup winners hit back with two penalties by Croatian forward Davor Suker and more strikes by Fernando Morientes, Victor Sanchez and Brazilian defender Roberto Carlos.

Norway's Rosenborg downed FC Porto 2-0 to stay second but three points behind.

Manchester United converted only two chances against Feyenoord but could also have scored five or more.

Paul Scholes fired the first in the 31st minute and a penalty by Irish international Dennis Irwin after a foul on Teddy Sheringham added the second. A late reply by Henk Vos gave the 54,000 United fans some tense late moments but the Reds should have been well ahead by then.

Alex Ferguson's team also have a maximum nine from three games, three more than Juventus, which won 1-0 at Slovakia's Kosice thanks to an early goal by Alessandro Del Piero.

Barcelona seems to go from bad to worse.

Expected to be one of the leading title contenders, Lous van Gaal's team was outplayed 3-0 by Dinamo Kiev and has lost two games and tied one.

The game before 100,000 fans in the Olympic stadium was virtually over after 32 minutes after goals by Serhiy Rebrov and Yuriy Maximov.

Barcelona had Dutch goalkeeper Ruud Hesp sent off and Yuriy Kalitvinstev added the third past replacement Carlos Busquets to pour more misery on Van Gaal and his team.

Barcelona, perhaps significantly one of the runners up allowed to play this season in what is still called a Champions Cup, have one point and are six behind group leaders Kiev with three games to play.

Dutch champion PSV Eindhoven edged Newcastle 1-0 to move up to third thanks to a first half goal by Wim Jonk. Newcastle and PSV are three points behind Kiev.

Monaco jumped to the top of Group F after a 5-1 crushing of Belgium's Lierse.

David Trezeguet scored twice as Monaco overwhelmed the Belgians with four goals in the second half. The others came from Thierry Henry, Scottish midfielder John Collins and Nigerian forward Victor Ikpeba.

Monaco, top on goal difference, is level on points with Bayer Levekusen, a 2-0 victor at Sporting Lisbon who slipped from first to third, two points behind the leaders.

Champions League results

Group A
In Parma: Parma (Italy) 1 Borussia Dortmund (Germany) 0 (halftime 0-0)
Scorer: Hernan Crespo 62
Attendance: 17,149
In Prague: Sparta Prague (Czech Republic) 3 Galatasaray (Turkey) 0 (1-0)
Scorers: Radek Bejbl 24, Pavel Kuka 64, Josef Hasek 87
Red card: Hamdi Salihi (G) 39, Hakan Unsal (G) 67.
Attendance: 19,000

Group B
In Manchester: Manchester United (England) 2 Feyenoord (Netherlands) 1 (1-0)
Scorers: Manchester United — Paul Scholes 32, Denis Irwin 72 pen.
Feyenoord — Henk Vos 82.
Attendance: 53,339
In Kosice: FC Kosice (Slovakia) 0 Juventus (Italy) 1 (0-1)
Scorer: Alessandro Del Piero 34
Attendance: 10,000

Group C
In Kiev: Dynamo Kiev (Ukraine) 3 Barcelona (Spain) 0 (2-0)
Scorers: Dynamo Kiev — Serhiy Rebrov 6, Yuri Maximov 32, Yuri Kalitvinstev 85
Red cards: Ruud Hesp (B) 60
Attendance: 100,000
In Eindhoven: PSV Eindhoven (Netherlands) 1 Newcastle (England) 0 (1-0)
Scorer: Wim Jonk 38
Attendance: 30,000

Group D
In Oslo: Rosenborg Trondheim (Norway) 2 Porto (Portugal) 0 (2-0)
Scorers: Sigurd Rushfeldt 18, Harald Martin Brattbakk 37
Red card: Chippo (P) 69
Attendance: 17,214
In Madrid: Real Madrid (Spain) 5 Olympiakos (Greece) 1 (2-1)
Scorers: Real Madrid — Davor Suker 33 pen, 67 pen, Fernando Morientes 44, Victor 85, Roberto Carlos 90 Olympiakos — Nikolaos Dabizas 18
Attendance: 50,000

Group E
In Istanbul: Besiktas (Turkey) 1 Gothenburg (Sweden) 0 (1-0)
Scorer: Besiktas — Oktay Derelioglu 6.
Attendance: 30,000
In Munich: Bayern Munich (Germany) 5 Paris St Germain (France) 1 (2-0)
Scorers: Bayern Munich — Giovane Elber 4, 71, Carsten Jancker 28, 47, Thomas Helmer 50
Paris St Germain — Marco Simone 48
Attendance: 45,000

Group F
In Lisbon: Sporting Lisbon (Portugal) 0 Bayer Leverkusen (Germany) 2 (0-0)
Scorers: Stefan Beinlich 68, Emerson Rincy 88
Attendance: 35,000
In Monaco: Monaco (France) 5 Lierse (Belgium) 1 (1-0)
Scorers: Monaco — Thierry Henry 33, John Collins 56, Victor Ikpeba 66, David Trezeguet 87 and 90
Lierse — Eric Van Meir 60.

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TECHNICAL WRITING (evening session)	Sun., Tue., Thur., 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.	Oct. 30	Sun., Tue., Thur., 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.	Dec. 14
WEB PUBLISHING	Wednesdays 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.	Nov. 5	Wednesdays 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.	Nov. 5
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VISUAL C++	Mon. 3 p.m. - 6 p.m.	Nov. 17	Sun. 12 noon - 3 p.m.	Dec. 7
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C/C++ PROGRAMMING	Mon. 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.	Nov. 17	Mon. 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.	Nov. 17
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Courses	Start Date and Time	
	Tel Aviv	Jerusalem
Intro to PC	Thur., Nov. 13 1-5 p.m.	Tue., Nov. 11 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
Excel I	Tue., Nov. 11 1-5 p.m.	Thur., Nov. 13 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
Excel II	Sun., Nov. 9 1-5 p.m.	Thur., Nov. 13 1-5 p.m.
Word I	Wed., Nov. 12 1-5 p.m.	Tue., Nov. 11 5-9 p.m.
Word II	Mon., Nov. 10 1-5 p.m.	Tue., Nov. 11 1-5 p.m.
Internet Express	Fri., Nov. 14 9 a.m.-1 p.m.	Fri., Nov. 14 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
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Dan Region

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Sharon Area

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Sharon Area

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PERSONAL

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Sharon Area

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JERUSALEM

HEBREW UNION COLLEGE, 13 King David St. Shabbat morning service, 9:30 a.m. Erev Rosh Hashana, Wed., Oct. 1, 6 p.m., Shaharit, Thur., Oct 2, 9:30 a.m. (No second day services).

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ART GUIDE

HAIFA

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ART GUIDE

JERUSALEM

Museums
OLD YISHUV COURT MUSEUM. Life in the Jewish community in the Old city, mid-19th century – World War II. 6 Or Hahaim, Jewish Quarter, Old City. Sun.-Thur. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

ART GUIDE

TEL AVIV

TEL AVIV MUSEUM OF ART. Yehiel Shemi - Retrospective. Kaeta Ephraim Marcus, A Retrospective. Valerio Adami: Paintings. The Helene and Zygfryd Wolach Collection of Modern Sculpture. Yona Lotan: Selected Paintings 1958-1997. Collections.HELEN RUBINSTEIN PAVILION FOR CONTEMPORARY ART. Hours: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tue.,10a.m.,-10 p.m. Fri., 10 a.m.-2, p.m., Sat., 10 a.m.-3p.m. Meyerhoff Art Education Center, . Tel. 6919155-8.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

GENERAL ASSISTANCE EMERGENCY PHARMACIES

Friday, October 24
Jerusalem: Kupat Holim Clalit, Straus A, 3 Avigdori, 670-6660; Shuafat, Shuafat Road, 581-0108; Dar Aldawa, Herod's Gate, 628-2058.
Tel Aviv: Pharmaxi, 41 Yirmeyahu, 544-2050; Pe'ermarket Jaffa, 61 Yehuda Hayamit, 682-2973.
Ra'anana-Kfar Sava: Medicstore, 24 Tchernichowsky, Kfar Sava, 745-7034.
Netanya: Neot Hashaked, Ezorim Commercial Center, 835-2484.
Haifa: Ballour, 1 Massada, 862-2289.
Krayot area: Niv Ata, 18 Hankin, Kiryat Ata, 844-1626.
Herzliya: Clal Pharm, Beit Merkazim, 6 Maskit (cnr. Sderot Hagalim), Herzliya Pituah, 955-8472, 955-8407. Open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Upper Nazareth: Clal Pharm, Lev Ha'ir Mall, 657-0468. Open 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Saturday, October 25
Jerusalem: (day) Jaffa Gate, 628-3898; (evening) Center Pharm, 20 Yad Yarutzim, 873-1475; (day and evening) Balsam, Salah e-Din, 627-2315; Shuafat, Shuafat Road, 581-0108; Dar Aldawa, Herod's Gate, 628-2058.Tel Aviv: Ahva, 165 Dizengoff, 522-4717; Superpharm, 40 Einstein, 641-3730. Till midnight: Superpharm Ramat Aviv, 40 Einstein, Ramat Aviv, 641-3730; Superpharm London Ministore, 4 Shaul Hamelech, 696-0115.
Ra'anana-Kfar Sava: (day) Haragil, 47 Rothschild, Kfar Sava, 767-0908; (evening) Bar-Ilan, 29 Bar-Ilan, Ra'anana, 744-3579.
Netanya: Magen, 13 Weizmann, 882-2985.
Haifa: Derech Hayam, 209 Derech Hayam, 837-1472.
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Upper Nazareth: Clal Pharm, Lev Ha'ir Mall, 657-0468. Open 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

DUTY HOSPITALS

Friday, October 24
Jerusalem: Hadassah Ein Kerem (surgery, pediatrics, ophthalmology); Shaare Zedek (surgery); Hadassah Ein Kerem (orthopedics); Bikur Holim (obstetrics, ENT).
Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv Medical Center Dana Pediatric Hospital (pediatrics); Tel Aviv Medical Center (internal, surgery).
Netanya: Laniado.

Saturday, October 25
Jerusalem: Hadassah Mt. Scopus (internal, orthopedics); Shaare Zedek (surgery); Hadassah Ein Kerem (obstetrics, ophthalmology); Bikur Holim (pediatrics, ENT).
Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv Medical Center Dana Pediatric Hospital (pediatrics); Tel Aviv Medical Center (internal, surgery).
Netanya: Laniado.

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Rape Crisis Center (24 hours), Tel Aviv 523-4819, 544-9191 (men), Jerusalem 625-5558, Haifa 853-0533, Eilat 633-1977.

Crisis Center for Religious Women 02-655-5744/5. 24-hour service, confidentiality guaranteed.

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Wizo hotlines for battered women 02-651-4111, 03-546-1133 (also in Russian). 07-637-6310. 08-855-0506 (also in Amharic).

Kupat Holim Information Center 177-022-1906, Sunday-Thursday, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Hadassah/Jerusalem Municipal Health Center for Adolescents, 6 Chile St., Kiryat Hayovel, Jlm. Advice by phone 02-643-3882.

Hadassah Medical Organization – Israel Cancer Association telephone support service 02-624-7676.

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WEAPONS

Continued from Page 14

At the same time, rumors began to appear in Warsaw newspapers that the Israelis were bribing the Poles. The allegations focused on Elbit, which was accused of using bribery to win a 1995 contract with the Czech Republic to upgrade L-39 military trainers.

Elbit executives were alarmed. To refute the allegations, the company held a news conference in Warsaw's Victoria Hotel on March 19 and produced a letter from Czech's deputy defense minister dated March 12.

"We want to confirm our appreciation that the Czech defense ministry has toward the Israeli defense industries and the high level of their capability," the letter read. "The Czech Defense Ministry has continued good relations with many of Israel's leading defense industries, including Rafael, Elbit Systems and other companies."

As an Elbit executive recalls, "There was no question that this rumor was spread by the competition."

Poland did not ignore the US pressure. Last spring, Warsaw asked Boeing to submit a bid for a Huzar upgrade that would include avionics and fire-control systems worth $300 million.

The request was meant to integrate a potential NATO avionics upgrade with the Rafael NT-D missile. Defense sources said the Boeing bid was considered too expensive.

By June, Israeli defense executives thought the deal was back on track. Some were so confident that sources in the Israeli consortium told *The Jerusalem Post* that Poland had unofficially notified the companies that they had won the contract. *The Post* published the claim the following day and the Poles, days away from receiving an invitation to join NATO, demanded an immediate retraction.

Poland was invited to join NATO in July and US pressure regarding the military deals did not let up. Last month, *The New York Times reported that US diplomats had* rebuked Warsaw for not awarding the contract to Boeing. Poland responded by suspending its decision.

The Huzar contract became a political issue in Warsaw as well.

During Polish elections in September, the Solidarity-aligned opposition vowed it would oppose the Israeli offer. After Solidarity won on September 21, defense executives in Israel held their breath.

"They wanted some of the contract to go to Boeing," a senior defense source recalls. "We never panicked although at a certain point we were wondering what would happen."

Last week, members of the outgoing Polish government announced the deal. Under the contract, Rafael and Elbit will supply 5,000 NT-D anti-tank missiles. Production is to begin in Poland in 1999 and continue through 2013. El-Op will be involved in installing advanced avionics and fire control systems in the Huzar.

To carry out the deal, the Israeli companies will deal with Swidnik, a Polish munitions factory that produces the Huzar and Misko. Under the agreement, upgrade technology will be supplied to Poland and many systems will be produced there.

In an October 14 communique to the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, where Elbit is traded, company secretary Arieh Tal quoted a Polish government representative as saying that "an agreement has been signed between the Polish and Israeli governments that determines the framework of the implementation of the helicopter project in Poland by the Israeli industries, including Elbit."

The communique said that the process for preparing contracts between the Israeli and Polish industries will continue. "Should these contracts be validated, it is expected that the activities of Elbit Systems Ltd. in the framework of the project of upgrading the helicopter will be significant for the company," Tal said.

"Along with this, the validation of the commercial contracts between the industries is dependent on the various approvals and permits from various sources in the Polish government," he added.

Some defense executives believe the contracts are not a done deal. They warn that Boeing has not given up. "It's still not closed," says Avraham Bar David, president of Tamuz Control Systems, which does business in former East Bloc nations.

"The new government still has to approve it. The Americans will still try to ruin the deal. I think it will take another month to clarify the matter. But if Israel does win, despite the US pressure it will have been a tremendous achievement."

Pedatzur says he's concerned that the Israeli win might boomerang. His scenario is that US defense companies will lobby Congress for a new law to restrict the export of advance weapons systems.

"US industries will pressure Congress for such a law and this will certainly affect Israel, which does have US technology," Pedatzur says. "In addition, Congress and the [Clinton] Administration can place a lot more pressure on purchasing nations. This is a process that worries me."

National League soccer returns

By ORI LEWIS

National League soccer makes a comeback after a three-weekend layoff today and tomorrow, with all clubs now giving the domestic program their undivided attention.

None of Israel's representatives still has any interest in Europe, and with the national team no longer dreaming of a place at the World Cup finals in France next year, its back to the staple of weekend matches.

This will now be the true test for upstarts Hapoel Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. The two have stunned everybody by taking over the mantle of league leaders, now the burden of proof is on them to show that it was not just an early-season flash in the pan.

The other clubs more regularly considered to have "leadership qualities" – Maccabi Tel Aviv and Hapoel Beersheba – will also need to show that their miserable run of form until now was simply an aberration. While bottom of the table Maccabi may snap out of their slump, there is nothing to suggest that Beersheba will, following the drubbing in the Cup Winners' Cup by Roda of Holland, which left the club in ruins both from a morale and a financial aspect.

This weekend's National League fixtures (all matches tomorrow at 15:00 unless stated):

Hapoel Kfar Sava v. Bnei Yehuda, Kfar Sava today 14:30; Hapoel Beit She'an v. Maccabi Haifa, Beit She'an; Maccabi Petah Tikva v. Hapoel Jerusalem, Petah Tikva; Ironi Ashdod v. Hapoel Tel Aviv, Ashdod; Maccabi Tel Aviv v. Maccabi Herzliya, National Stadium; Betar Jerusalem v. Hapoel Ashkelon, Teddy Stadium 15:30; Hapoel Haifa v. Hapoel Petah Tikva, Kiryat Eliezer 17:45; Ironi Rishon v. Hapoel Beersheba, Rishon.

Vialli is Chelsea hero despite 3-2 loss in Arctic snowstorm

LONDON (AP) – As a veteran winner of the Champions', Cup Winners' and UEFA Cups, Gianluca Vialli thought he had seen it all. Now he has.

Last night he weaved his way through a tangle of defenders legs in an Arctic blizzard to score two late goals for Chelsea in a Cup Winners Cup 3-2 loss to upstart Tromso.

Although his team lost, they were goals that maintained his favored team's chances of winning the title.

In a bizarre game 200 miles north of the Arctic Circle, the west London soccer aristocrats slithered to defeat but still will feel confident of beating the Norwegian part-timers on a green field at Stamford Bridge in two week's time.

On a sticky, snow-swept field, Tromso went 2-0 ahead inside 20 minutes through Steinar Nilsen and Frode Fermann. Snow fell heavily throughout the second half and Polish referee Jacek Granat twice halted the game for the lines to be swept by groundstaff.

Then three goals came in the final six minutes.

Vialli battled through to make it 2-1, Ole Morten Arst scored Tromso's third with Chelsea furious that it was short-handed and unable to get a substitute on the field, and then Vialli wriggled through again in the final minute for 3-2.

It was a thrilling end to a game that seemed unreal.

Stuttgart and Roda FC look like making it to the quarterfinal a little more easily.

Two goals each from strikers Fredi Bobic and Jonathan Akpoborie gave Stuttgart a 4-0 win at Germinal Ekeren to give the Belgians little chance of gaining the last eight.

And Garba Lawal and Van Houdt scored in each half as Roda JC scored an easy 2-0 victory at Slovenia's NK Primorje.

Dominque Aulanier scored twice as French division two team Nice managed a 2-2 tie with Slavia Prague. The Czechs, with home advantage and two away goals, will be favored to advance.

Daniel Lima and Brazilian striker Veridiano Marcelo netted the goals as AEK Athens downed Austria's Sturm Graz 2-0 and Zaza Dzhanashia headed Lokomotiv Moscow's winner in a 2-1 win over Turkey's Kocaelispor.

FUNDS

The group that plays together pays together

By BEVERLEE BLACK

Readers of this column will have noticed that in the previous listing we recorded the generous donation of NIS 10,000 to be divided among our three funds.

The donor, the Bible Lands Museum in Jerusalem, has Saturday evening musical performances. Part of the proceeds have been given to our funds.

This is a wonderful idea, which we would like other cultural and sporting groups to take up.

Couldn't your local bridge, mahjongg, or Scrabble club pass the hat at the end of an enjoyable evening?

Groups offhikers could make a donation to celebrate a successful walk, and we would give it mention in our weekly column.

A donation from one of the amateur soccer or softball groups that play in the country's parks on a Friday afternoon could help provide sports equipment to a youth club in a deprived neighborhood.

The demands put on our funds seem to grow year by year, so we must look for new ways to raise the moneys to answer these needs.

Thank you, Bible Lands Museum and all the other group collections for your thoughtfulness and generosity.

But we need more and more and more.

May the coming year be one of peace and prosperity for all. And may the donations to our funds grow in numbers.

Don't wait. Send your check today to: The Jerusalem Post Funds, P.O. Box 81, Jerusalem 91000.

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NIS 150 In loving and grateful remembrance of our dear parents, Renee and Andreas Latter – Dr. Susana Scherzer and Gerda Latter, Haifa. In memory of my parents, Dinah and Abraham Engleman – Naomi Taylor Brown, Netanya. Minna and Simcha David Bar Sinai, Ramat Gan.
NIS 120 In memory of my parents, Ada and Bennett Teff – Elizabeth Segal, Ramat Gan.
NIS 100 Reta and Nehemia Behr, Ramat Gan. Yehudit Rodman, J'lm. Clara Lagnado, J'lm. In loving memory of Papa Bebe – Nesya Vered Sugarman, J'lm. In memory of my dear friend, Gayle Blustein of Toronto, Canada – Susan Sand and family, Shavei Zion. In honor of the 92nd birthday of our dear father and grandfather, Abe Bock – The Schlusselbergs, Kibbutz Yavne. Anon., Haifa. Allan and Susan Reiter, Haifa. In honor of my parents – H. Witlin, Herzliya.
NIS 50 In memory of my grandparents, Cantor/Bromberg families, Leeds – E. Nadav, Ramat Gan. Jay Isaacs, Netanya. In memory of Efraim Mittelman's mother – Fritz and Rita Robinson, Tel Aviv. In memory of my mother, Esther Blechman – Ruth Blechman Sokol, Kibbutz Gadot. In memory of Harris Greene, he was a fine man – Lola and Issy Nathan, Deganya Alef.
NIS 36 In memory of Rabbi Raphael Levy – Hulda Hoch, Petah Tikva. David Lerner, J'lm. In honor of my grandchildren – Rhoda Isaacs, Ramat Gan.
NIS 20 Sara and Neil Hersbenson, Netanya.
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$50 Anon., University Heights, OH. In loving memory of Ida and Nathan Yakimoff and beloved brother, Frank Moffett and sister, Florence Yakimoff – Natalie Yakimoff, Katonah, N.Y.
$36 In memory of my parents, Haberman/Lambert – Rochelle Lambert, New Haven, CT.
$20 J. Labia, Jersey, Channel Islands.
$18 Daniel Custer, Enola, PA. Sigmar and Rosetta Seif, Paterson, NJ. In honor of the High Holy Days – Bryna Franklin, Tel Aviv.
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New Donations	Progress Totals
NIS 6,274	NIS 134,387
$510	$38,986

(other currencies converted into shekels)

TOY FUND

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NIS 50 In memory of my mother, Esther Blechman, Ruth Blechman Sokol, Kibbutz Gadot. R. and M. Lubinski, Ra'anana.
NIS 36 In honor of my grandchildren – Rhoda Isaacs, Ramat Gan.
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$108	$25,315

(other currencies converted into shekels)

WELCOME HOME FUND

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New Donations	Progress Totals
NIS 700	NIS 35,755
$-	$10,613.50

CRITICISM

Continued from Page 5

In the first case of American demands for the return of a fugitive, the Soblen affair, in 1962, the attorney-general was carefully kept out of the picture. Dr. Robert Soblen jumped bail after conviction as a communist spy in the United States and, arriving in Israel on his brother's passport, sought to invoke the Law of the Return. At that time there was no extradition treaty with the United States. Without consulting the attorney-general, the minister of justice ordered Soblen deported from Israel and handed over to FBI agents en route. Soblen's attempted suicide led to a forced landing in Britain. He died in detention, while still seeking to obtain a judicial determination of his right to refuge in Israel.

The second case involved Meyer Lansky, widely believed to be the financial brains of organized crime in the United States. In 1971, then in his 70s, he came to Israel seeking permanent residence, to avoid facing a minor tax-evasion charge. Despite Lansky's advanced age and his lack of prior convictions, the interior minister decided that Lansky had a criminal past that was likely to endanger the public peace.

This decision was upheld in a highly questionable High Court judgment authored by Chief Justice Agranat. A basic right under the Law of the Return was not given the same protection that Agranat had previously accorded freedom of the press. The charge that Lansky's past was "likely to endanger the public peace" was not subjected to any variant of the clear and present danger test.

Moreover, Agranat accepted hearsay evidence, testimony before congressional committees, as the basis for his dubious finding.

Lansky, still a devoted but disillusioned Zionist, returned to his Florida home, where he was tried and acquitted on the income tax evasion charge.

The present popular criticism of the attorney-general is disquieting. It is clearly misdirected, as the responsibility for requesting extradition is in the hands of the minister of justice. But, more than that, it indicates a breach in the public confidence that previously insulated the attorney-general from the vicissitudes of the political arena.

The attorney-general should be exempted from the current mood of public cynicism. His job is the defense of the rule of law. He should be above having to defend himself.

The writer is a legal and political commentator.

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GENERAL

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Senior Hamas official Khaled Mashaal, left, welcomes women guests to a dinner to celebrate his recovery from a Mossad assassination attempt in Jordan last month and the freeing from an Israeli jail of Hamas founder Sheikh Ahmed Yassin; to Mashaal's left is his predecessor, Musa Abu Marzook. The dinner was also attended by Jordan's chief of the royal court and leader of the senate. (Reuters)

Court rejects state inquiry into Mashaal Affair

By BATSHEVA TSUR

The High Court of Justice turned down a petition on Wednesday from Amitai, Citizens for Good Government, to establish a state commission of inquiry into the Mashaal Affair.

Only extreme and unusual circumstances would justify the intervention of the court in such a matter, the court said in rejecting the petition. It is the government's prerogative not to set up any type of inquiry, the court noted.

The court cited the precedent of the Bar-On Affair where, during the summer, it had rejected several petitions calling for inquiry commissions.

There is currently a three-member Clarification Committee looking into the affair in which two Mossad agents were arrested in Jordan after injecting senior Hamas official Khaled Mashaal with a poisonous substance. The affair has been described as the worst failure in the history of Israel's security services.

The court also turned down an alternative request in the petition that two members of the committee be changed, because of conflict of interests. They are committee head Joseph Ciechanover who heads the board at El Al and former police chief Rafi Peled who is head of the Israel Electric Corporation.

National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon will visit Amman next week, Israel Radio reported last night.

It will be the first visit by a high-ranking Israeli official since the Mashaal case was resolved.

Congress releases hold on Israel aid

By HILLEL KUTTLER

WASHINGTON - House foreign operations committee chairman Sonny Callahan on Wednesday released a hold on the first installment of Israel's assistance package, a $75.6 million section of the overall $1.2 billion in economic assistance .

Although both the House and Senate have passed foreign aid bills, reconciling the two has been held up, in part, because of differing funding levels for Jordan. That matter was among the items to be considered during a House-Senate "conference" on the bill yesterday.

The hold also occurred because of anger expressed by House appropriations committee chairman Robert Livingston in the case of S., the 17-year-old Maryland resident seeking refuge in Israel from murder charges. But Livingston said he was placated by Israel's decision this week to allow extradition.

Callahan is determined not to exceed a $5.4b. cap on aid to the Middle East. Israel and Egypt together receive more than $5b. annually. The Senate bill would provide $250m. to Jordan this year, while the House version contains $175m. Callahan has stated that additional funds to Amman would have to come from the packages of the current recipients.

Callahan said that he removed the hold because "I believe we have achieved general agreement on future funding levels for the Middle East which support American interests in the Middle East and safeguard all our friends and allies there, even as we protect American taxpayer dollars. This agreement enables us to move forward on the overall foreign aid appropriations bill so we can fund programs and activities vital to our nation's security."

Callahan's spokesman Jo Bonner would not state what the agreement was, but said that Callahan "sees more clearly that other participants besides the US are willing to make sacrifices toward assisting Jordan."

"There was never any direct or indirect intention to penalize Israel. But we felt the hold was the best way to get everyone to the table. We're all in agreement that Jordan needs more assistance. But [Callahan] was not willing to go back to the American people to increase it. Other countries are going to be participating to resolve this," Bonner said.

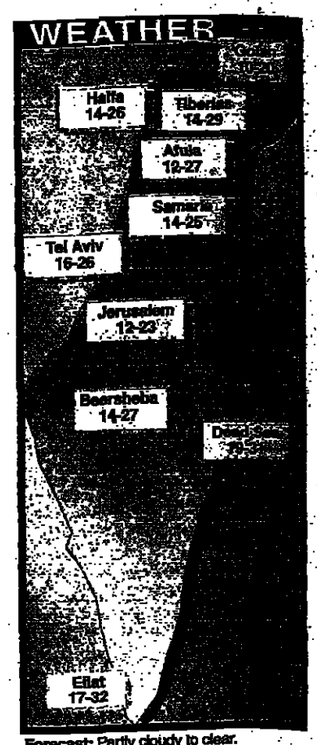
But Israeli embassy officials who deal with foreign aid said there are no US-Israel-Jordan-Egypt discussions on addressing where Jordan's funds will come from. Israel has already stated it is willing to transfer $50 million to Jordan, but it is reluctant to have the money taken off the top by the Congress, fearing it would mark a precedent to lower Israel's total annual allocation.

Man killed at roadblock

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

IDF soldiers manning a roadblock in the southern Gaza Strip on Wednesday riddled a car with automatic gunfire and mortally wounded its driver, who they claim was trying to run them down. The army said the man was later identified as a 35-year-old Israeli citizen from Ashkelon and police have launched an investigation into the matter. The vehicle, the army said, approached the roadblock from the south and, according to the soldiers, was charging them at a very high speed in an attempt to run them down.

WEATHER



Forecast: Partly cloudy to clear. Rise in temperatures.
Shabbat: Rise in temperatures.

AROUND THE WORLD

	LOW C	LOW F	HIGH C	HIGH F	
Amsterdam	03	37	10	50	cloudy
Berlin	02	36	09	48	cloudy
Buenos Aires	16	61	25	77	rain
Cairo	18	64	23	73	clear
Chicago	-02	28	07	45	cloudy
Copenhagen	03	37	08	46	cloudy
Frankfurt	-02	29	11	52	clear
Geneva	11	52	14	57	rain
Helsinki	-03	27	04	39	cloudy
Hong Kong	26	79	28	82	cloudy
Jorboig	11	52	29	84	clear
Lisbon	17	63	19	66	pt/cloudy
London	07	45	15	59	clear
Los Angeles	18	64	24	75	clear
Madrid	15	59	23	73	rain
Montreal	-04	25	04	39	pt/cloudy
Moscow	-01	30	02	36	pt/cloudy
New York	06	41	12	54	clear
Nice	16	61	26	66	rain
Paris	05	41	13	55	pt/cloudy
Rome	13	55	22	72	cloudy
Stockholm	-03	27	05	41	pt/cloudy
Sydney	12	54	22	72	pt/cloudy
Tokyo	17	63	23	73	cloudy
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A flicker of eyelids for new Middle East

By ABRAHAM RABINOVICH

Like a beautiful woman cast up seemingly lifeless from the sea, the prostrate peace process was surrounded this week on Tel Aviv's shorefront by a host of well-wishers prepared to offer mouth-to-mouth resuscitation.

The aid given at the opening of the Peres Center for Peace at the Hilton Hotel was mostly mouth-to-ear – two days of speeches by dozens of guests from around the world and the region who shared Shimon Peres' vision, however frayed by current realities, of a new Middle East.

The good news was that the victim's eyelids seemed to flicker, a sign of life induced not by any political breakthrough but by the optimism – or at least dogged hope – that most of the distinguished participants managed to project despite the difficulties they readily acknowledged.

Prof. Shimon Shamir, Israel's former ambassador to Jordan and Egypt, noted that the problem of Israel's integration into the region went beyond the hostility of governments and narrow intellectual strata in Arab countries and therefore could not be changed simply by demanding that the official line in those countries towards Israel become more civil. The main objective, he said, must be to "de-demonize" mutual perceptions.

As a starter, it was important to be able to differentiate among groups in the opposite camp rather than seeing them en masse as the enemy. "The peace process started when Israelis began to realize there is a difference between Yasser Arafat and Abu Nidal," said Shamir. Making such differentiations, however, was no simple matter.

"I have an Egyptian friend," he said, "who says there are no hawks and doves in Israel, only hawks and hawks that coo." What should be done? Encourage familiarity, said Shamir. Although Jordanians can easily pick up Israeli television, visitors from that country are inevitably surprised by what they find in Israel.

"A Jordanian friend told me that from what he had seen on television he had expected to find nothing but men with beards and men with rifles." Jordan is now preparing a series of 10 television programs, called 'Who are They?' on aspects of daily life in Israel. "They might now call it 'Who the hell are they?'," he joked.

As useful as such programs were, there was nothing as effective in changing people's perception of each other as direct human contacts and these, he said, must be promoted.

Historian Paul Kennedy of Yale suggested an even more ambitious goal – rewriting history. Behind every nasty conflict, he said, lay distortions of history in which one side's special claims are justified while the other side is shown as depraved. Prof. Kennedy proposed a joint project involving Israeli, Arab and foreign historians to write a new history of the Middle East.

Prof. Sung-Joo Han of Korea, who has studied conflicts in his own country, Cyprus and then-divided Germany, said that hardliners on both sides to a dispute inevitably maintain that if you make a concession the other side will only pocket it and ask for more. Only force they argue, can make the other side come to terms. "Hardliners on both sides have an interest in precipitating conflict." The non-hardliners in these disputes, he said, argue that the other side must be provided a stake that would give them an interest in keeping agreements.

Swiss banker Edgar de Picciotto said that the contending parties in the Middle East will eventually succumb to world trends and their own commercial natures. "Globalization has superseded the political system," he said. Peace was inevitable because of economic forces, he contended, and so was a regional structure in the Middle East ("This region is the quintessence of entrepreneurship") similar to the one that has taken shape in Europe. The Peres Peace Center has prepared a list of projects ranging from Palestinian-Israeli dialogues to an industrial park on the Gaza border.

Whatever the condition of that prostrate lady on the Mediterranean shore, Shimon Peres and his friends are clearly not ready to to let her rest in peace

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